



In this July 10, 2018 file photo, protesters hold signs supporting Planned Parenthood in Seattle, as they demonstrate against President Donald Trump and his choice of federal appeals Judge Brett Kavanaugh as his second nominee to the Supreme Court.

Associated Press
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AMA: Trump family-planning abortion rule risks health crisis

From Front

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

The American Medical Association and Planned Parenthood filed a federal court lawsuit Tuesday challenging a new Trump administration rule changing criteria for family-planning grant money in ways sought by anti-abortion activists.

The new rule, announced last week by the Department of Health and Human Services, would prohibit family planning clinics

funded by the federal Title X program from making abortion referrals — a provision that critics denounce as a “gag rule.”

Clinics that receive Title X grants also would be barred from sharing office space with abortion providers — a requirement that would in many cases boost costs for providers like Planned Parenthood that offer abortions and other services, including family planning.

The result of the rule, if implemented, “will be a national public health crisis



In this July 10, 2018, file photo, Hillary Namba, left, of Seattle, holds a wire coat hanger and a sign that reads “We Won’t Go Back,” as she takes part in a protest in Seattle.

Associated Press

in short order,” the lawsuit said. “Pregnancies that are unintended, and thus riskier, will increase. The number of abortions will also increase. And there will be fewer tests for sexually transmitted infections and cancer screens — putting patients and their partners at great health risk,” the lawsuit said. Planned Parenthood, which operates a nationwide network of health centers, says it will leave the Title X program if the rule is implemented, forgoing an estimated \$60 million in annual funding rather than abide by the new restrictions.

Such an exit could have enormous impact: Planned Parenthood serves 1.6 million of the 4 million women who get care through Title X. The program, enacted

in 1970, makes family-planning services available to low-income individuals for free or at low cost.

In the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Eugene, Oregon, the AMA and Planned Parenthood contended that the new rule violates a congressional mandate that patients receiving information about their pregnancies through Title X must receive complete, unbiased information about their options. They argued that the ban on abortion referrals violates this mandate and unconstitutionally infringes on health care providers’ responsibilities to their patients.

“Because of the administration’s overreach and interference ... physicians will be prohibited from having open, frank conversations

with their patients about all their health care options,” said the AMA’s president, Dr. Barbara McAneny. “This blatant violation of patients’ rights under the Code of Medical Ethics is untenable.” “Families that are struggling to make ends meet and people who live in rural areas must have the same access to full, unbiased information from their doctor as everyone else,” said Wen.

Wen stressed that Planned Parenthood, even if it left Title X, would continue to offer its full array of services, including birth control and screenings for sexually transmitted diseases and cancer. But it would not be able to maintain the level of free or low-cost contraception that was available via Title X. □

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Omar the flashpoint as Democrats confront divide over Israel

By LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back in January, the Democrats welcomed their brash young newcomers to Congress with smiles and hugs. That was before the new colleagues dragged the party's simmering divisions over Israel out in the open. Provocative comments from Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota have thrust the Democrats into an uncomfortable debate over Israel policy a few weeks before a high-profile conference where senior Democrats typically make a show of support for the Jewish state. Increasingly, the rift appears as much generational as ideological, with newly elected Democrats showing less deference to



In this Feb. 5, 2019 photo, Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., arrives for President Donald Trump's State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington.

the party line. Omar became the flash point after she suggested last week that Israel's supporters are pushing U.S. lawmakers to take a pledge of "allegiance to a foreign country." It's at least the third time she has forced older, pro-Israel Democrats who run the House into awkward territory over U.S.-Israeli policy. Republicans have been

happy to stoke the furor, with President Donald Trump calling Omar's remarks "a dark day for Israel" and posting a photo of himself in Jerusalem. Inside the Democratic family, meanwhile, leaders are in a bind, torn between a need to admonish Omar for her comments and their desire to defend one of the first Muslim women ever elected to Congress.

This time Omar is not apologizing. And this time pro-Israel Democrats led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi are not just warning her about the dangers of Jewish tropes. They're expected to offer a resolution condemning anti-Semitism on the House floor.

"Accusations of dual loyalty generally have an insidious, bigoted history," a draft of the resolution reads in part. "The House of Representatives acknowledges the dangerous consequences of perpetuating anti-Semitic stereotypes and rejects anti-Semitism as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States."

The text, which includes a history of bigotry against Muslims and blacks as well as Jews, sounds unobjectionable by itself. But the fact that senior Democrats felt obliged to put the House on-record on the topic points to a transformation in the country — mostly among Democrats — about supporting the Jewish state.

In a poll by the Pew Research Center in January of last year, 46 percent of Americans said they sympathized more with Israel and 16 percent with the Palestinians in their Middle East discord.

Omar, a Somali-American,

says that what she is questioning is the influence game in Washington and she worries that anything she says about Israel and its treatment of Palestinians will be construed as anti-Semitic. "Being opposed to (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu and the occupation is not the same as being anti-Semitic," she tweeted on Sunday. "I am grateful to the many Jewish allies who have spoken out and said the same."

But Democrats in Congress remain largely supportive of Israel. Pelosi, for example, often attends the American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington, which is coming up later this month.

Omar on Tuesday got a boost from allies who point out that the congresswoman, too, has been the target of threats and bigotry. "No one seeks this level of reprimand when members make statements about Latinx + other communities," the New York Democrat wrote.

"We are concerned that the timing of this resolution will be seen as singling out and focusing special condemnation on a Muslim woman of color as if her views and insensitive comments pose a greater threat than the torrent of hatred that the white nationalist right continues to level against Jews, Muslims, people of color and other vulnerable minority groups," said J Street, a nonprofit that says it's a home for "pro-Israel, pro-Peace Americans." The Democrats' strategy, the group added, "plays directly into the hands of the president and his allies, who act in bad faith to weaponize the debate for political gain." □

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Sacramento police who killed Stephon Clark won't be charged

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— California's attorney general announced Tuesday that he won't charge two Sacramento police officers who fatally shot an unarmed black man last year, joining a local prosecutor in finding that the officers reasonably believed Stephon Clark had a gun as he moved toward them. Attorney General Xavier Becerra announced the results of a nearly yearlong investigation after telling Clark's mother privately. He acknowledged that it was not what Clark's family wanted but said the evidence showed the officers had reason to believe their lives were in danger, though investigators found only a cellphone.

"There is a lot of hurt in this community today and certainly in the home of the Clark family," Becerra said. "Our investigation can't change what has happened, but we can make every effort to deliver a fair, thorough and impartial review, which we promised this community."

Clark, 22, was suspected of vandalism when he was shot seven times on March 18, 2018, and his killing prompted protests in California's capital city and across the U.S.

New demonstrations followed Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert's decision this weekend not to charge the officers, with more than 80 people arrested Monday. A reporter from The Sacramento Bee newspaper was briefly detained while live-streaming the protest.

With the conclusion of the state and local investigations, U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott and Sean Ragan, who heads the FBI's Sacramento office, said they and the U.S. Justice Department's Civil Rights Division will review the results to see whether the officers violated Clark's civil rights. Such reviews are standard practice, Scott spokeswoman Lauren Horwood said.

Sacramento police said



California Attorney General Xavier Becerra gestures towards the three binders containing his office's investigation into last year's fatal shooting of Stephon Clark by two Sacramento Police Officer, during a news conference, Tuesday, March 5, 2019, in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

they now will decide whether the officers violated any policies or procedures, which could result in their firings.

Officers Terrance Mercadal and Jared Robinet said they thought Clark was approaching them with a gun after he ran from them into his grandparents' backyard.

The officers had been pursuing Clark after receiving calls about someone breaking car windows and an elderly neighbor's sliding glass door. The attorney general and district attorney said the evidence showed Clark was advancing toward the officers holding what they thought was a gun when they shot him.

Clark could have kept fleeing through an opening at the other side of the backyard, Becerra said, but instead advanced from about 30 feet (9 meters) away from the officers to about 16 feet (5 meters) away before they opened fire.

Attorneys for Clark's family say an autopsy they commissioned found that police shot Clark seven times from behind.

Becerra said his office hired the San Diego County

Medical Examiner's Office to conduct an independent review, which backed the official autopsy showing that Clark was most likely shot as he approached police.

The attorney general said he considered evidence that Clark had drugs and alcohol in his system and had been fighting with his fiancée in the days prior to the shooting.

But while the local district attorney highlighted those factors during her announcement Saturday, drawing protests that she was impugning Clark's character, Becerra said they were not key to his decision.

Becerra, who called for changes in law enforcement practices to prevent other shootings, said there was plenty of evidence to support his conclusion. Still, he said it was not an easy decision.

"There's a young man who's no longer alive," Becerra said. "Two sons who won't have a father. Whose mother I just met is still grieving. Of course it was a tough call. These are all tough calls. It's never easy."

Before announcing the decision, he met with Clark's mother, SeQuette Clark, at a church. She planned to speak to reporters later in the day.

The case has led top state officials to support changes to California's legal standard for when police can use deadly force. □

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Record-breaking family migration overwhelming border agency

By COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of migrant families crossing the southwest border is again breaking records, and the crush is overwhelming border agents and straining facilities, officials said Tuesday. More than 76,000 migrants crossed the U.S.-Mexico border last month, more than double the number from the same period last year. Most were families coming in ever-increasingly large groups — there were 70 groups of more than 100 people in the past few months, and they cross illegally in extremely rural locations with few agents and staff. There were only 13 large groups during the previous budget year, and only two the year before. The system “is well beyond capacity, and remains at the breaking point,” U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said a press conference Tuesday. The new figures reflect the difficulties President Donald Trump has faced as he tries to cut down on illegal immigration, his signature issue. But it could also help him make the case that there truly is a national emergency at the border — albeit one built around humanitarian crises and not necessarily border security. The Senate is expected to vote next week and join the House in rejecting his national emergency declaration aimed at building border walls, but Trump would almost certainly veto the measure and the issue is likely to be settled in the courts.



U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Commissioner Kevin McAleenan speaks during a news conference in Washington, Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

After the deaths of two migrant children in Border Patrol custody, Customs and Border Protection stepped up medical screenings. They also announced sweeping changes including more rigorous interviews as migrants come into the system. And McAleenan said a new processing center would be built in El Paso, Texas, that will be better suited to manage families and children and handle medical care concerns — but it's not a permanent solution. “While our enhanced medical efforts will assist in managing the increased flows, the fact is that these solutions are temporary and this solution is not sustainable,” he said. While fewer people overall are being apprehended crossing the border illegally each year — about 400,000

over the last budget year compared with the high of 1.6 million in 2000, the increasing numbers are alarming, officials said. Those apprehended used to be mostly single men from Mexico, but are now mostly families from Central America — since October, more than 130,000 families have been apprehended between ports of entry. From October through September 2018, about the same number of families was apprehended at the U.S.-Mexico border. Tens of thousands of children illegally cross the border alone. While single men used to evade capture, the families are seeking out agents. Customs and Border Protection also reported using firearms less and less. There were 15 instances where officers and agents used firearms during the budget

year 2018, down from a high of 55 reported during the 2012 budget year, and down from 17 during 2017's budget year and 25 the year before. Despite high-profile instances in recent months where agents used tear gas on groups of migrants that included children, use of less-lethal force like tear gas, batons or stun guns are also down, to 898. That's a decrease from the high in 2013 of 1,168, according to the data. During 2018's fiscal year, border agents and officers seized more than 1.7 pounds of narcotics, including 1.1 million pounds of marijuana, 282,570 pounds of cocaine, 6,552 pounds of heroin and 2,463 pounds of fentanyl, mostly through ports of entry, according to the border security report from budget year 2018, released Tuesday. Fentanyl

seizures were up nearly 70 percent from the last budget year. Complaints of excessive force prompted the border enforcement agency to commission an audit and investigation by the Police Executive Research Forum, a research and policy group. The 2013 audit highlighted problems that included foot-patrol agents without access to less-lethal options, and it recommended law enforcement not be allowed to use deadly force when people throw rocks — a suggestion that was rejected. Following those reviews, major training and policy changes were made. Border Patrol agents now undergo scenario-based drills at the academy and learn how to de-escalate tense situations. They get 64 hours of on-the-job training on use of force. Agents and officers are authorized to use deadly force when there is reasonable belief in an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or another person. They have discretion on how to deploy less-than-lethal force: It must be both “objectively reasonable and necessary in order to carry out law enforcement duties” — and used when other “empty hand” techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects. Officials say they deploy the lowest form of force necessary to take control of a situation, but instances a few months ago where tear gas was used on migrants that included children drew strong criticism. □

Feds: Forgery operation produced over 10,000 fake documents

By **ANDREW SELSKY**
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Located in an apartment in a primarily Hispanic town in Oregon, a clandestine lab churned out thousands of fake Social Security cards, drivers' licenses and immigration documents that were sold around the United States for years.

The clandestine operation, revealed for the first time Tuesday in a federal court document, showed that a syndicate based in Oaxaca, Mexico, operated the forged-document factory in Woodburn, a town of 24,000 in an agricultural region a half-hour's drive from Portland.

Employers including farms, nurseries and wineries, routinely employ people who are in the United States illegally but who can produce a Social Security card or work visa. Many agricultural employers say it's not their responsibility — and that they lack the expertise — to determine if the documents are genuine.

The arrest on Sept. 21, 2017, of Miguel Merencias-Lopez in a fast-food restaurant parking lot in Woodburn reveals how, in many cases, such documents are produced. Merencias-Lopez pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court in Portland to conspiracy to produce false identification documents and possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He had gone to the parking lot to

sell more than a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of meth, prosecutors said.

Homeland Security Investigations had already been looking at the syndicate they called the "Fraud Doc Ring" before the arrest, said Kevin Sonoff, spokesman for the United States Attorney's Office in Portland. After Merencias-Lopez was arrested, investigators went to his apartment and found computers, scanners, laminators, cameras and a high-resolution printer. "The fraud ring operated in Woodburn for more than a decade and produced over 10,000 fraudulent documents that they distributed in Woodburn or mailed to customers around the United States," U.S. Attorney Billy Williams and Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter Sax said in the plea agreement posted Tuesday in court documents. Previous detailed court documents remain under seal.

The Fraud Doc Ring communicated with customers using Facebook, email, Snapchat and in person, the plea deal states. Customers emailed, texted or mailed the ring digital passport-style photos for insertion into the fake ID cards, or visited a clandestine photography lab in Woodburn where their photos were taken, the plea agreement says. Customers paid electronically through PayPal, through the mail or in person.

In the apartment, agents found dozens of security images and seals used in legitimate identification documents. They also found stored digital photos of more than 4,000 customers. The Fraud Doc Ring produced a wide array of documents, including drivers' licenses for over 25 different states, Social Security cards, lawful permanent resident cards, U.S. and Mexican birth certificates and marriage licenses.

There is a huge market for such documents. Immigrants working illegally in this country accounted for about 46 percent of America's roughly 800,000 crop farmworkers in recent years, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from the U.S. Departments of Labor and Agriculture. Many more work in the nation's hospitality, service and construction industries.

Merencias-Lopez's attorney, Brian Walker, did not immediately respond to emailed and phone messages re-



This March 2, 2017, file photo shows a sign advertising bus trips to California with connections to Mexico, at a shop in the predominantly Latino town of Woodburn, Ore.

Associated Press

questing comment. Merencias-Lopez said in his petition to plead guilty that he has a 10th-grade education, and that he understands that conviction can lead to imprisonment and deportation.

Merencias-Lopez, 24, moved to Woodburn from Oaxaca in January 2017, long after the fraud ring began operating. He is responsible for creating at least 300 fraudulent U.S. government documents, according to the plea agreement.

Government prosecutors and Walker are jointly rec-

ommending a low sentence. For the false documents conviction, he faces a maximum 15 years in prison and \$250,000 fine. The drug conviction carries a maximum sentence of life in prison with a 10 year mandatory minimum sentence and a \$10 million fine.

Sonoff said no other arrests have been made and that the current criminal inquiry focuses only on Merencias-Lopez and his co-conspirators, not on their customers. Sentencing is scheduled for June 18. □

Autonomous car testing plan aims to boost public confidence

By **RAMESH SANTANAM**
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Companies testing autonomous vehicles in Pittsburgh will have to immediately report crashes resulting in any injuries as part of new guidelines announced Monday intended to boost public confidence in the testing after a deadly accident in Arizona last year.

Karina Ricks, director of

the city's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure, said the city was working on guidelines before the March 18 accident in Tempe when one of Uber's autonomous test vehicles hit and killed a pedestrian as she crossed a dark road outside the lines of a crosswalk. The Pittsburgh guidelines were included in an executive order signed by Mayor Bill Peduto on Monday. □

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Macron's plea for Europe lays down battle lines for May vote

By **LORI HINNANT**
SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron's plea to voters in 28 nations to choose a stronger European Union has gained support from outside his borders — and a good deal of skepticism from within. In a column published for Tuesday's editions throughout the bloc, Macron advised voters in the May 23-26 EU parliament elections to reject nationalist parties that "offer nothing," laying down the battle lines for the vote.

Instead, Macron called on people to support parties who want to strengthen Europe.

Macron himself defeated an anti-EU candidate to become modern France's youngest leader, but his popularity at home has dipped since taking office to the strains of the bloc's anthem, "Ode to Joy."

The column is his furthest-reaching attempt to shore up the EU, where nationalist and populist candidates have seen gains, including in neighboring Italy and most recently in the Estonia



In this Sunday, June 24, 2018 file photo French President Emmanuel Macron speaks with the media at the conclusion of an informal EU summit on migration at EU headquarters in Brussels.

general election on Sunday.

"Freedom, protection and progress: we need to build European renewal on these pillars. We can't let nationalists with no solutions exploit people's anger. We can't sleepwalk to a diminished Europe. We can't remain in the routine of business as usual and wishful thinking," he wrote.

He proposed the creation of an agency to protect member states' elections from cyberattacks and other manipulations. He also seeks to ban the financing

of EU political parties by foreign powers.

To address migration, Macron called for stricter border controls, a common border force, and common asylum rules.

Macron also called for Europe to lead the fight against climate change by setting a target of zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 and cutting pesticide use in half by 2025.

Macron's office said the French president's approach is "legitimate and useful" to open a European debate without interfering

in domestic politics.

It added that the French presidency had informed all 28 EU governments ahead of the publication.

In a tweet Tuesday, Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä offered support for Macron's call for "security, sustainable growth and ambitious climate policy."

Sipilä added that people needed to see "the EU that is capable of making decisions and implementing them."

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said he particularly hoped for "a Europe that protects liberty and democracy," according to the agency Belga.

The German government said it's important for pro-European forces to set out their ideas for the future of the EU, but didn't offer any immediate assessment of Macron's latest reform proposals.

In France, Macron's ratings remain low in popularity polls even if he appeared to regain a little support in recent weeks, as he tries to quell the yellow vest anti-government protest movement.

The polls suggest that

Macron's party appears ahead of the far-right National Rally in European Parliament elections.

The French opposition criticized Macron's tribune on Tuesday.

"Macron is all alone on the European stage. He got angry with the countries in the East, treating them as though they were insane. He got angry with Italy, treating it as a nationalist leper," Jordan Bardella, head of the candidate list for France's far-right National Rally, told BFM television. "He is now totally alone in his plans for a federal Europe, for a European renaissance, while all the people of Europe want to regain their power, their national sovereignty."

Nadine Morano of the opposition Republicans noted that France seems to figure little in Macron's plans.

"In this column, the word France appears just once," she told FranceInfo radio. "This is Macronism — France has to disappear into this European federalism."

Since he arrived in office in May 2017, Macron has made a point of visiting 19 European countries. □

Counterterror police examine 3 explosive devices in London

By **GREGORY KATZ**
Associated Press

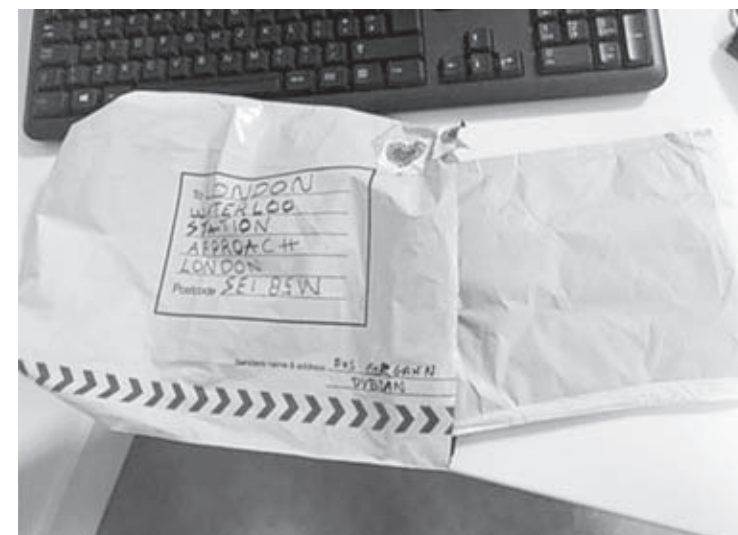
LONDON (AP) — Three small explosive devices in plastic mailing bags arrived at offices for two London

airports and at a train station Tuesday, and Irish police said they were helping British counterterrorism police with the investigation. London's Metropolitan

Police Service said the devices found near London's Heathrow and City airports and at Waterloo Station "appear capable of igniting an initially small fire when opened." A staff member did unseal the bag sent to an office building on Heathrow's grounds, "causing the device to initiate," the police department said.

Part of the package burned, but no one was injured, police said. The Compass Centre was evacuated as a precaution. The building is not close to passenger terminals at Heathrow, Britain's busiest airport, and flights were not affected.

The Heathrow property is where the first of the three explosive devices was discovered at about 9:55 a.m. Transportation police received a call at 11:40 a.m.



In this handout photo provided by Sky News, a suspect package that was sent to Waterloo station is seen in England, Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

Associated Press

after another suspicious package turned up in the mail room at busy Waterloo Station. The last was found just after noon at the administration building for City Airport, a much smaller commercial airport. No one had opened either of

those packages.

The Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command "is treating the incidents as a linked series" and "keeping an open mind regarding motives," the department said in a statement. □

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EU center-right group to mull kicking out Orbán's party

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The European Parliament's main center-right group will discuss later this month whether Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's party should remain a member, amid anger over the anti-migration party's latest campaign against European Union leaders.

The European People's Party said Tuesday that it has received letters from 12 member parties in nine countries seeking the exclusion or suspension of Orbán's Fidesz party from the group, the biggest in the outgoing EU legislature. That's considerably more than the seven parties in five countries that its rules require.

The issue has now been added to the agenda for a March 20 meeting of



In this Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 file photo, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán delivers his annual "State of Hungary" speech in Budapest, Hungary.

the EPP's political assembly, which brings together representatives of member parties. Whether there will be a decision is unclear, but the body could de-

cide to kick out or suspend Fidesz, which will be given an opportunity to defend itself.

The matter is coming to a head a little over two

months before the May 23-26 European Parliament election.

Orbán has been strongly identified for years with anti-migrant rhetoric. In recent

weeks, he has angered many in the European People's Party with a campaign of government ads accusing European Union leaders of promoting mass migration. They depict European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, a fellow EPP member, and Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros.

"The European People's Party is a big family that can have its differences," EPP president Joseph Daul told Tuesday's edition of German daily Die Welt. "But there is a limit and Viktor Orbán has crossed the red line."

The parties that have called for action against Fidesz are from Belgium, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden. □

Belarus leader wants closer ties to NATO, Western nations



In this Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017 file photo, Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko waves to journalists as he arrives at the Zapad (West) 2017 joint Russia-Belarus military exercises at the Borisovskiy range in Borisov, Belarus.

Associated Press

By YURAS KARMANAU

Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — The authoritarian president of Belarus on Tuesday called for better ties with NATO and lifted restrictions on U.S. diplomats, an apparent bid to win concessions from Moscow by dangling the prospect of rapprochement with the West.

Alexander Lukashenko's statement on NATO follows a decision by his main sponsor and ally, Russia, to charge a higher price for its oil supplies to Belarus.

"If they shut doors to us, we will search for another way," Lukashenko said,

adding that Belarus will seek to develop ties with the West and establish relations with NATO. Lukashenko has ruled the ex-Soviet nation of 10 million with an iron fist for nearly a quarter-century, relentlessly cracking down on dissent and free media. He has relied on loans and cheap energy from Russia to keep his country's Soviet-style economy afloat. Last fall, though, Russia declared that it will charge higher prices for its oil supplies, dealing a heavy blow to Belarus, which has been making hefty profits from the export of oil products

made from cheap Russian crude. Lukashenko, who has won concessions from Moscow in the past by raising the prospect of a shift toward the West, appeared to try the tactics Tuesday, warning Russia that its pressure will force Belarus to diversify its ties.

He noted that while Russia feels "allergic and even hysterical" about Belarusian attempts to normalize ties with the West, it will continue on its path. "Why get hysterical?" Lukashenko said. "You bar our products from your market, you call us freeloaders, you pressure us wherever you can." □

Prominent French jihadis killed in IS-held area in Syria

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

OUTSIDE BAGHOUZ, Syria

(AP) — A prominent French militant who joined the Islamic State group, Jean-Michel Clain, was killed in a mortar strike over the weekend as he struggled with wounds suffered in an earlier airstrike that killed his jihadi brother, his wife said Tuesday after emerging from the group's last pocket of land in Syria.

The wife, who identified herself as Dorothee Maquere, said another French woman who had joined IS, Hayat Boumeddiene, was killed in another strike last week that allegedly hit a safe house known as the "French House," where many French nationals were staying. Boumeddiene had been wanted by French police as a suspected accomplice in a 2015 attack in the Paris region.

Maquere was one of hundreds of people who over the past two days streamed out of Baghouz, the last village held by the Islamic State group, under stepped-up assault the past four days by U.S.-backed forces. The latest wave of evacuations brings the final defeat of IS by the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces one step closer — a milestone in the devastating four-year campaign to defeat the group's so-called "caliphate" that once covered a vast territory straddling both Syria and Iraq.

Maquere, who is also French, told the Associated Press that the situation inside Baghouz was a "horror film," saying there is a "massacre" inside, with constant shooting. People had to lay flat to avoid the crossfire, she said, adding that there were "no more homes, we live underground in tunnels and tents." She said her 7-year-old daughter was killed and her other daughter wounded by an explosion two weeks ago. Two other sons were killed earlier in a mortar attack and Syrian government fire.

Speaking at a desert reception area where SDF fighters were screening the

evacuees, the 38-year-old said she does not want to go back to France, which is part of the U.S.-led co-

alition fighting IS. "I want France to leave me alone. They killed my husband, my children. ... I want nothing from them. They did already enough harm. I want them to leave me with my children," she said, cradling her two-week old son, one of her five surviving children.



People sit in a truck after being evacuated out of the last territory held by Islamic State militants, outside Baghouz, Syria, Monday, March 4, 2019.

Her account, if verified, closes a chapter on a number of French militants who were connected to attacks in past years in and around Paris and who then made their way to IS's "caliphate" and finally, as it crumbled, to this tiny village on the Euphrates River near the Iraqi border.

Her husband, Jean-Michel Clain, who Maquere said wrote religious anthems for IS, was seriously wounded in a Feb. 20 airstrike in Baghouz that killed his brother, Fabien, one of Europe's most wanted IS members. The U.S.-led coalition announced Fabien's death several days after the strike.

The two brothers joined IS together and Fabien went on to become the group's voice in France. Fabien's voice was on an IS recording claiming responsibility for the worst terrorist violence in France's modern

history — a series of bombings and shootings in Paris in November 2015 that killed 130 people. Jean-Michel held on for a little over a week after the airstrike. Maquere said she tried to treat him, but his feet were torn apart and one side of his body was crushed. "He suffered," she said. "There was no hospital." He was killed on Sunday when a mortar struck, causing him a direct head wound, she said.

Boumeddiene was killed in a separate airstrike in Baghouz about a week ago, Maquere said. Two other French citizens who left Baghouz on Monday — a French-Belgian who identified herself as Zohra and a French-Moroccan, who refused to be identified said Boumeddiene was believed to have been staying in the French House and confirmed it was struck last week.

Boumeddiene was the widow of Amedy Coulibaly, a Frenchman who attacked a kosher supermarket in Paris in January 2015, days after two other militants — brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi — gunned down the staff of the weekly satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo. Coulibaly killed four people in the supermarket before French police stormed in and killed him.

The Kouachi brothers were killed by police in a separate raid. All told, their attacks left 17 people dead.

Associated Press

Investigators then focused on finding Boumeddiene, who was believed to be pregnant at the time. But she had already fled to Syria. Soon after, IS published what it said was an interview with her in French and English, in which she called on women to be patient and make life easier for their husbands.

Maquere said Boumeddiene had "started a new life" and remarried. She said she didn't have any children. The French-Moroccan evacuee said Boumeddiene had told her she had no idea about plans for the 2015 attack in Paris or her husband's plans.

Boumeddiene's evolution was documented in photos widely distributed in French media after her disappearance, from vacation pictures of her in a bikini to images of her holding a crossbow while wearing an all-encompassing black niqab. The last known image of her was from airport surveillance video in Istanbul, going through passport control.

Tuesday's exodus came three days after U.S.-backed forces resumed their push on IS militants holed up in Baghouz. The

assault had been slowed the previous week to allow thousands of civilians, including IS family members, to be evacuated from the tiny pocket of territory. As many as 10,000 people who had been squeezed into the eroding patch of land, are estimated to have streamed out — an enormous number that stunned the SDF.

Asked about the situation inside Baghouz, a Russian woman who came out with her three children responded in broken Arabic: "Fear." She said her husband had died earlier.

Another woman in her mid-20s, who identified herself as Reem from the central Syrian province of Hama, said she was waiting for her husband to come out of an IS-controlled jail. He has been there for months after killing an IS member in retaliation "for his baby daughter being killed in an airstrike," she said.

"I haven't seen him since and don't know where he is," Reem said, adding that she asked repeatedly for his whereabouts before she eventually decided to leave.

The evacuees said the bombing has been intense in recent days. One woman said she saw a man hit by a missile as she was fleeing from one tent to another.

Earlier on Tuesday, SDF spokesman Mustafa Bali tweeted that about 3,000 people came out of Baghouz on Monday. They left through a humanitarian corridor established by the Kurdish-led forces for those who want to leave or surrender.

Since Feb. 20, more than 10,000 people have left the IS pocket and black-robed women with children in the backs of trucks could be seen passing through the corridor and heading into the desert. They were then whisked off to a camp for displaced people to the north, while suspected IS fighters were moved to detention facilities. It was unclear how many IS militants and civilians remained inside, but the number is now likely in the hundreds. □



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China sets robust growth target to shore up cooling economy

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China announced a robust annual economic growth target and a 7.5 percent rise in military spending Tuesday as it convened an annual legislative session overshadowed by a tariff war with Washington.

Seeking to defuse U.S. and European complaints the Chinese system is rigged against foreign companies, Premier Li Keqiang promised in a speech to the National People's Congress that they will be "treated as equals" with their Chinese competitors.

Li, the country's top economic official, set this year's growth target at 6 to 6.5 percent, reflecting determination to shore up a cooling state-dominated economy and prevent politically dangerous job losses. Such a growth rate, if achieved, would be among the world's strongest. Yet it would be slightly below last year's 6.6 percent growth in China and would mark a new three-decade low.

The slowdown in China, the world's second-largest economy after the United States, is likely to hold back international growth.

"China is still a very large locomotive pulling the global economy," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at SS Economics in Los Angeles. "As the Chinese economy slows, this will have an impact around the world. We are already seeing that impact."

Still, Eswar Prasad, an economist at Cornell University, suggested that a more manageable pace of growth in China could benefit the global economy in the long run.

"Slower but more balanced



Chinese President Xi Jinping, foreground left, and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, foreground right, look as they arrive at the opening session of the China's National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

growth in China, especially if it was driven by domestic consumption demand and involved fewer financial system risks, could be a net positive for the world economy," Prasad said.

At the legislative session in Beijing, Li promised to "promote China-U.S. trade negotiations," but gave no details of talks aimed at ending the fight with President Donald Trump over Beijing's technology ambitions and complaints it steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Li, No. 2 in the ruling Communist Party behind President Xi Jinping, pledged higher spending on development of technologies including artificial intelligence, electric cars, biotechnology and new materials that China's leaders see as a path to prosperity and global influence. He also promised more money for education, social programs and public works

construction.

China's emergence as a competitor in smartphones, telecom equipment, solar power and other technologies has increased the range of products available to consumers and helped to drive down prices. But it rattles Washington and other governments that worry Chinese competition is a threat to their industries and employment. Li warned that the second-largest economy faces a "graver and more complicated environment" and risks that "are greater in number and size."

The two-week gathering of the congress's 3,000-plus delegates in the cavernous Great Hall of the People is China's biggest event of the year. It does little law-making, but serves as a platform to highlight the government's plans for the year.

Xi's government is expected to use this year's session to announce tax cuts and

Associated Press

more support for entrepreneurs who generate much of China's new jobs and wealth.

Legislators also are due to endorse a law that aims to ease tensions with Washington and Europe by discouraging officials from pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

Higher government spending will push the budget deficit from 2.6 percent of total economic output to 2.8 percent, Li said.

The plans reflect "emphatic pro-growth efforts" to "offset external headwinds," Vishnu Varathan of Mizuho Bank said in a report.

Proposed tax cuts of up to 2 trillion yuan (\$300 billion) would put "significant spending power" in the hands of consumers and companies, helping to buoy sagging demand for autos, household appliances and other goods, Varathan said.

Spending on the Commu-

nist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, will rise to 1.2 trillion yuan (\$178 billion), according to a separate report issued by the finance ministry. China's total military outlay, the second-largest behind the United States, is estimated by independent experts to exceed \$220 billion a year when off-budget expenses are added in.

The spending will pay to expand China's navy and acquire advanced aircraft and other weapons to help Beijing enforce its territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The slower rise in military spending, down from double digit increases in previous years, reflects changing priorities, said Yue Gang, a military expert and retired Chinese army colonel.

"It is more urgent for China to prepare for a trade war with the U.S., instead of a physical war," Yue said. Military reforms are nearly complete, and "China needs the money to be used for more urgent matters," he said.

The tariff fight with Trump over Beijing's technology ambitions has rattled Chinese consumers and investors, prompting some to put off spending, which could add to downward pressure on economic growth.

News reports say Washington and Beijing might be close to an agreement to end the battle. But the chief U.S. envoy, Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, said earlier the two sides still had much work to do.

No agreements have been announced on the core of the dispute: U.S. pressure on Beijing to roll back its plans for state-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technology. □

Trump symbolically tightens embargo on Cuba

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**
MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — The Trump administration announced Monday that it is tightening the six-decade trade embargo on Cuba by allowing lawsuits against Cuban companies using properties confiscated after its 1959 revolution, though the impact appears to be largely symbolic.

The announcement limits lawsuits to a list of about 200 Cuban businesses and government agencies that are already subject to special U.S. sanctions because they are tied to the Cuban military and intelligence ministries. Virtually none of the businesses have any links to the U.S. legal or financial systems, meaning the ability to sue is unlikely to have any effect on the Cuban economy or foreign businesses that work with the socialist government.

Some of the businesses on the list are hotels operated as joint ventures with foreign companies, but the Trump administration measure does not allow the foreign companies themselves to be sued, a State Department official told



In this Sept. 15, 2015 file photo, the Melia Cohiba hotel stands tall as workers repaint pavement markings along the Malecon in preparation for Pope Francis' visit in Havana, Cuba.

reporters on condition of anonymity.

Every president since Bill Clinton has suspended a section of the 1996 Helms-Burton Act that would allow such lawsuits because they would snarl companies from U.S.-allied countries in years of complicated litigation that could prompt international trade claims against the United States.

The new action allows a small portion of Title III of the act to take effect, but the

Trump administration raised the possibility of more biting sanctions in the near future: It said this suspension would expire after 30 days while most previous suspensions have lasted six months.

The Cuban government called that an "unacceptable threat against the world."

"I strongly reject the State Department's announcement to authorize lawsuits under Title III of the Helms-Burton act, against a list

of Cuban companies arbitrarily sanctioned by the Trump administration," Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez said on Twitter.

Major investors in Cuba include British tobacco giant Imperial Brands, which runs a joint venture with the Cuban government making premium cigars; Spanish hoteliers Iberostar and Melia, who run dozens of hotels across the island; and French beverage-maker Pernod-Ricard, which

makes Havana Club rum with a Cuban state distiller. "It is not intended to affect European companies that are currently doing business in Cuba," the State Department official said. "You could not sue a European or Japanese partner in a joint venture."

Attorneys for Americans with claims on confiscated properties said the Trump decision to announce an extremely limited partial lifting of Title III of the Helms-Burton act may itself be illegal because it violates their clients' rights to sue.

"If this is the first step in a strategic effort that will lead to full enforcement of US law, it may be a good first step," said attorney Jason Poblete, who represents a group of Americans whose property was confiscated. "However, partial waivers are not mentioned in the statute and it raises potential equal protection and maybe other constitutional questions."

The measure is being presented as retaliation for Cuba's support of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who the U.S. is trying to oust in favor of opposition leader Juan Guaido. □

Back in Venezuela, Guaido asks state workers for support

By **CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA**
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Opposition leader Juan Guaido on Tuesday appealed for support from Venezuela's state workers in his push to oust President Nicolas Maduro, whose government has yet to comment on the defiant homecoming of his adversary.

Guaido said police officials were among those at a meeting that he held with leaders of public employee unions, which rely heavily on subsidies from Maduro's government to get by in a country suffering from hyperinflation and shortages of food and other necessities.

"We're not going to collaborate any longer with the dictatorship," Guaido said



Venezuelan Congress President Juan Guaido, an opposition leader who has declared himself interim president, greets a supporter as he arrives to meet with public employee unions in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

Associated Press

after a meeting at the offices of an engineers' association in Caracas. He urged state workers to prepare for a strike, though no date was given and he said an immediate priority will be to promote a law guarantee-

ing rights for public workers. The 35-year-old leader of the National Assembly said he would call a meeting of the legislature on Wednesday to craft the law.

Guaido and his backers say Maduro's re-election

last year was invalid, making the legislative leader interim president. At least one pro-Maduro Supreme Court judge has accused Guaido of illegally usurping power, putting him at risk of arrest.

Guaido had shrouded the route and timing of his return Monday in secrecy amid concerns he might be detained. Yet he breezed through airport immigration checks and brazenly called for Maduro's downfall at a rally where the presence of security forces was minimal. The United States and other countries had warned Maduro not to move against his adversary, and he possibly realized arresting his foe could generate more street protests.

And while Guaido's presence is likely to add at least

short-term momentum to his campaign for political change, Maduro has proven resilient and still controls the organs of state, including the critical loyalty of top military officers.

Venezuela is gripped by a humanitarian crisis that is expected to worsen as U.S. oil sanctions designed to put more pressure on Maduro take their toll. With both political factions holding firm amid increasing deprivation for Venezuelans, some analysts speculate that they might be considering negotiations on an end to the standoff.

Guaido, meanwhile, has called for big protests on Saturday, a tactic that has sometimes been countered by Maduro loyalists with flag-waving rallies of their own. □

LOCAL



Dutch Embassy launches Platform to Create

SANTO DOMINGO — The Dutch ambassador for the Dominican Republic and Haiti, Annemieke A. Verrijp sees connection as a necessity to achieve goals. From this point of view, the Dutch ambassador together with her team, recently launched the platform CoCreaRD. Influencers, stock brokers, innovators, young professionals, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), universities and those interested can find each other on this platform to share ideas and start to create. "The Caribbean has big potential in all imaginative forms, why not learn from each other and share experiences, ideas, innovations. To create and to solve."

The Caribbean Islands is a massive archipelago located in the Caribbean Sea, that can be subdivided into a few different regions: the Lucayan Archipelago, the Greater Antilles, the Lesser Antilles which includes the ABC Islands. There are 13 sovereign states and 17 dependent territories in the Caribbean, and the languages are English, Spanish, French, Dutch and Antillean creole. The Caribbean sprawls across more than 1.06 million square miles and is located between North America and South America. With these facts in mind, we can imagine the richness in culture



that inhabits this part of the world. The ambassador: "We have mutual challenges in climate changes, we share the same rich culture and then again each island has its own unique character, we have strong leaders, we carry many social problems with regards to women emancipation and youth participation. We can make use of each other's solutions to problems and share innovations. We can create new projects and team up to face our challenges."

Exalt Diversity

The inspiration for the platform comes from a likewise platform in South Africa, where the concept already works well. "The Do-



minican Republic, Aruba, Curacao, St. Maarten and the Netherlands face the same challenges when it comes to climate change. The Netherlands is a country below sea level and islands are surrounded by water. With the raising sea level we need to unite to build resilience", says the ambassador. Sustainability is a must and needs attention, some Caribbean destinations progress more than others, making it a possibility to connect and work together. Many ties unite the Caribbean; sports, culture and music are just some to mention. There is room here to celebrate and fortify these estates. The objective of CoCreaRD is to facilitate cultural exchanges and exalt the diversity. Leadership is as diverse as the countries of the Dutch Kingdom and the Dominican Republic. "Why not identify these emerging leaders and know their ideas to confront the countries challenges. We need to look for them in the universities up to the 'barrios'."

Continued on Page 14



Dutch Embassy launches Platform to Create

Continued from Page 13

Input from All

On initiative from a delegation of the European Union 200 persons from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Foundation Saneamiento Ambiental Comunitario, Ciudad Alternativa and members of the embassies of Germany, France, Civil Defense and the community of Gualey gathered to clean the shores of the Ozama river. CoCreaRD was also part of this event. On the field of sports, teams from the Dominican Republic, Curacao, Aruba united for a Baseball Cup



tournament. These are just some of the examples of what CoCreaRD stands for. The ambassador hopes to create many more connections and hopes more people are open-minded. "I strongly believe in working together with an open mind.

We cannot deny our challenges and look away. It is now that we are able to unite and create with the input of all: women, youth, people from all standards and life walk."

For more information: Facebook Embassy of the Netherlands in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. □

Nacional Library launches Digital Platform



ORANJESTAD — Biblioteca Nacional Aruba or the National Library Aruba, offers a part of their archive in digital form. The digital platform, that is being launched this coming Thursday, provides the public access to information and do research. The goal with the launch of the digital platform is to make information more accessible.

At the department of the library called Arubiana/Caribiana several interesting items are digitalized and open to the public. The collection contains portraits, documents, newspapers, magazines, thesis and other publications that were selected to be part of the national collection. This Thursday the digital platform will be launched at Arubiana/Caribiana,

Bachstraat 5 in Oranjestad. Three speakers will elaborate on the theme of documentary inheritance, preservation of historic information and cultural digitalization. Also the topic of access to information will be on the table. Doctorandus Peter Scholing (National Library Aruba), Doctorandus Raymond Hernandez (National Archive Aruba) and Mr. Renwick Heronimo MA (Foundation Museums Aruba) will be the orators. With a part of the national collection being digitalized there will be more people that can have access to the valuable intangible heritage of Aruba. Everyone is invited to the launch that starts at 7.30 PM in the garden of the library. Please contact telephone 00 297 582-6924 for more information or email: digital@bibliotecanacional.aw. □

ARUBA Esso NEWS

VOL. 4, No. 1 PUBLISHED BY THE LAGO OIL & TRANSPORT CO., LTD. JANUARY 8, 1943

Former Commissary Employee Now in R. A. F. Receives Dist. Flying Medal

From grinding hamburger to bombing Hamburg is the recent history of Winston Hynam, former sales clerk at the meat counter in the Colony Commissary. According to news received here a short time ago by his brother, who works at the Stars and Stripes Club, Hynam has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal for his work in the Royal Air Force.

With service as a wireless operator, and as front gunner and bomb aimer, he displayed, according to the citation, "outstanding coolness and complete disregard for danger in pressing home attacks on the enemy regardless of enemy opposition or adverse weather".

Hynam, whose home is in Barbados, worked at the Commissary from October, 1938, to April, 1940. He was restless after war broke out in 1939, frequently saying he was going "to bomb ---- out of those Germans". And he seems to have carried out his threat.

Aki 'riba nos ta mira Winston Hynam, kende recientemente a worde presentá cu un medalla pa su curashi den su trabao como miembro di Real Fuerza Aerea na Inglaterra. Hynam, cu a nace na Barbados, tabata un empleado na Comisario fe'i October, 1938 te April, 1940.

At night pedestrians can see auto headlights more easily than drivers can see pedestrians — that's why it's important to walk on the left, where the headlights in your lane approach you from the front.

Good Food and Good Talk Feature Committee Dinner



Shown at top is the speakers' table, with General Manager L. G. Smith addressing the banqueters. Left to right are E. W. Martin, W. C. Colby, R. H. Paul, Mr. Smith, F. S. Campbell, J. J. Morgan, and P. Branch. (Also at the speakers' table, but not visible in the picture, were E. A. Rankin, L. J. Brewer, B. Teagle, and E. G. Ollivierre). Below, a view of the banquet hall.



Over 90 men sat down to banquet tables December 12 at the dinner, in the Lago Heights Dining Hall, extended by Executive Management for members of the Employees' Advisory Committee, Lago Heights Advisory Committee, and Management representatives.

The "turkey and all the trimmings" served by the Dining Hall staff was such that when General Manager L. G. Smith opened his address he admitted that it was difficult to speak of wartime priva-

E portretnan aki 'riba a worde tumá na Lago Heights Dining Hall dia 12 di December, durante e banquete cu Compania a ofrece e miembronan di Comité Consultivo di Empleadonan, Comité Consultivo di Lago Heights, i Representantenan di Directiva.

Den e portret di mas ariba nos ta mira e 90 homber durante e cuminda. E otro portret un poco mas abao ta musta nos e mesa di oradornan, unda oficialnan di e Comitenan i oficialnan ejecutivo di Compania a sinta.

Continued on page 17



More Prizes & More Chances to Win!

Wilder Wednesday

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —
\$1,000 in Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play. Win \$25 to \$250 in Free Slot Play. Play up to five times each Wednesday.

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Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory.

Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from

Connie Robb of Wintersville, Ohio.
They wrote to us:

Aruba to me is Wild and Wonderful! Our second home for the last eleven years! ☐



20 Consecutive Years to Aruba



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Marouska Heyliger honored John and Rochelle Barone from New York with Goodwill Ambassadors certificate in the name of the Aruba Tourism Authority.

The event which commemorates their 20th consecutive visit to the island was held at the Bucuti and Tara beach resort. The Barone's love coming to the island for its beautiful beaches, warm weather and safety of the island. ☐



WEDNESDAY MARCH 6th, 2019

Progressive starting at \$5,000 • Carnaval Powerball \$550

Starting 8:00PM in Crystal Theater | Bingo Card \$15 (incl. progressive)

Game 1	\$200	Game 6	\$500
Game 2	\$200	Game 7	\$650
Game 3	\$300	Game 8 Progressive	
Game 4	\$300	51 up to 54 calls \$300	
Game 5	\$400	55 or more calls \$200	
		Game 9	\$1,500

DOOR PRIZES

- \$200 Cash • \$100 Cash
- Dinner for 2
- 4 Carnaval Bingo Cards

Experience what Aruba's Carnaval Bingo is all about !



Today's
Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 6

Premiere VIP Captain Marvel

- Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe's most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. Come and see the premiere of this exciting movie
- Different times
- The Cinema, Renaissance Marketplace
- Facebook The Cinema

Thursday 7

Launch Digital Platform Library

- Be present during the launch of the digital platform for the collection of the National Library
- 7.30 PM
- Arubiana Caribiana, Bachstraat 5
- Facebook Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



Sunday 10

1st International Carnival Film Festival

- The festival will be showing short films in the categories of fiction and nonfiction as documentaries and biographical based on the theme of Carnival.
- 12 PM
- Crystal Theater, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino.
- Facebook International Carnival Film Festival



Monday 11

Spiritual Monday

- Spiritual Mondays are on! Come and enjoy Yoga, meditation and Spirituality. This month will be all about Kundalini Meditation and techniques.
- 7.30 – 8.30 PM
- Alto Vista, Noord
- Facebook Yogi Vibes Aruba



**Fridays we do
Aruban Nights!**

6PM-10PM

Aruban Cuisine by our Executive Chef Anelotte Ellis

Friday 8

Aruban Night

- Head up to San Nicolas for the • Experience Aruba's Culture; great Ambiance, extraordinary Music and sublime Food and Drinks at the restaurant at The Mill Resort
- From 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- The Mill Resort & Suites
- Facebook The Mill Resort & Suites

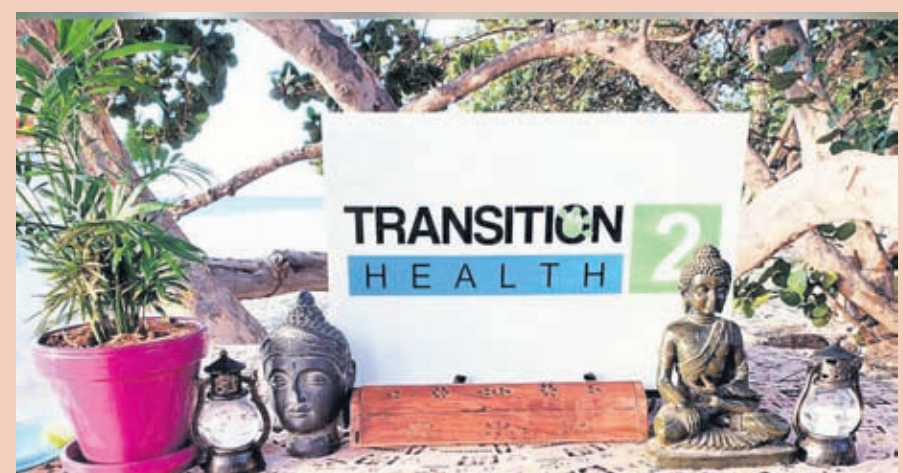
Saturday 9

Wine & Cheese Tasting

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Tuesday 12

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SPORTS



In this Jan. 16, 2019, file photo, Roger Penske holds his "Baby Borg" trophy in Detroit. In this Jan. 16, 2019, file photo, Roger Penske holds his "Baby Borg" trophy in Detroit.

Associated Press

Roger Penske remains captain of motorsports

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Somewhat overshadowed by the stifling scrutiny of NASCAR's new rules package was another Team Penske victory. Joey Logano held off teammate Brad Keselowski's last-lap push to win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway — the fourth victory for a Roger Penske car in seven days. Keselowski and Logano drove Ford's new Mustang to consecutive Cup victories the last two weeks, while in Australia reigning Supercars champion Scott McLaughlin swept the weekend in the debut of that new version of the Mustang.

It's quite a start for Penske, who last month was inducted into NASCAR's Hall of Fame, feted at the Royal Automobile Club in London and celebrated his 82nd birthday. Penske in January hunkered down for the entire Rolex 24 at Daytona, where one of his two Acura entries pulled out a third-place finish.

Continued on Page 22

SUNS SHINE



Oubre, Booker help Suns stun Bucks

Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker (1) shoots as Milwaukee Bucks guard Eric Bledsoe (6) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 4, 2019, in Phoenix. The Suns won 114-105.

Associated Press
Page 21

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Ennis records 1st hat trick, Toronto beats Calgary 6-2

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Tyler Ennis made a return to his home province a night to remember.

Ennis recorded his first career hat trick to lead the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 6-2 victory over the Calgary Flames on Monday night.

"I played a lot of games here," said Ennis, who played four years of junior hockey in Medicine Hat. "Had some rivalries with the (Calgary) Hitmen over the years. I'm familiar with this rink. To get a hat trick in it with my parents watching playing for the Leafs is a real special night for me." Zach Hyman had two goals for Toronto. Mitch Marner had a goal and two assists, giving him 10 points (three goals, seven assists) in the last four games.

Matthew Tkachuk and Derek Ryan scored for Calgary, which has dropped two in a row after a seven-game winning streak. The Flames' lead atop the Pacific Division remained three points over San Jose.

Ennis, who was scratched in Toronto's previous game, opened the scoring 9:50 into the first on a power play. He got the puck skating through the low slot and sent a backhand shot into the top corner.

After scoring again late in the first on a carom, Ennis completed his big night by sending a shot from the side boards that slipped past David Rittich for his 12th goal. The fans littered the ice with over 100 hats.

"We're so lucky to have this fan base. To have that many hats on the ice in an away arena is very special. It was just a great night," Ennis said.

The Leafs moved within one point of second-place Bos-

ton in the Atlantic Division. Frederik Andersen made 35 saves and won his fifth straight, improving to 32-13-3. Rittich had 26 stops and slipped to 22-6-5. It was Rittich's second regulation loss since mid-December. He entered the game 11-1-4 in his last 16 games.

Andersen was excellent in the second period, drawing chants of "Freddy, Freddy" from the crowd.

"It was pretty special. Another example of how great fans of Toronto are," Andersen said. "They travel well and come with us on the road, too. It's pretty cool. It's always special to have that."

Early in the second, he snapped Mikael Backlund's shot from close range. Late in the period, he stopped a shot off the stick of Johnny Gaudreau.

Andersen's blocker save off Austin Czarnik on a breakaway preserved the Leafs' 1-0 lead. Toronto struck twice immediately after.

Ennis' second, making it 2-0 at 17:15, was a fluke as his shot hit the skate of Rasmus Andersson in the slot and tumbled high in the air, eventually going over Rittich's shoulder and landing in the net.

At 18:51, Backlund's give-away in the offensive zone enabled Marner to race away on a breakaway. Rittich stopped the initial shot, but the rebound went in off Hyman's skate.

Toronto made it 4-0 at 4:11 of the second when Marner neatly set up Hyman's second goal of the game. Calgary got on the scoreboard late in the second, needing just 10 seconds to convert their first power play of the night. Gaudreau's wraparound bounced

around the crease and crossed the line.

"They got a lucky bounce on the second one and chasing the game against them is tough, man. They have a lot of skill over there and they make you pay for little mistakes," said Calgary captain Mark Giordano. But there's no panic in the Flames room yet. □



Toronto Maple Leafs' Tyler Ennis, centre, scores on Calgary Flames goalie David Rittich, left, of the Czech Republic, as Mark Giordano looks on during first period NHL hockey action in Calgary, Alberta, Monday, March 4, 2019.

Associated Press

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Worst over 1st: Suns stun Bucks 114-105

By The Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Kelly Oubre Jr. had 27 points and 13 rebounds, and the Phoenix Suns rallied from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to stun the NBA-best Milwaukee Bucks 114-105 on Monday night.

Devin Booker added 22 points and Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 12 rebounds, including a key layup with 35.8 seconds to play that gave the Suns a four-point lead. Phoenix entered with the worst record in the league before improving to 14-51, just ahead of the New York Knicks.

All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Malcolm Brogdon scored 19 for the Bucks, who have lost two straight games for the first time this season. Milwaukee shot 36.8 percent.

The Bucks led by 16 in the first half, only to trail by three in the third quarter.

SPURS 104, NUGGETS 103

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 as San Antonio withstood Denver's closing rally.

The Nuggets fought back from 21 down and held the Spurs scoreless over the final 2 1/2 minutes, getting the final nine points to pull within one, but missed three shots in the last 16.2 seconds.

Jamal Murray missed a 3-pointer with 16.2 seconds to go and a runner five seconds later but the Nuggets maintained possession both times as the Spurs tipped the ball out of bounds. Aldridge then slapped Jokic's pass down and Rudy Gay was fouled after capturing the loose ball.

Gay missed the ensuing free throws with four seconds remaining. After the Spurs committed a foul on the initial inbound, Nuggets guard Gary Harris missed a 3-pointer over Patty Mills in the left corner as time expired to give the Spurs their third straight win. The Nuggets have lost 13 straight in San Antonio.

Murray finished with 25



Phoenix Suns center Deandre Ayton (22) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 4, 2019, in Phoenix.

points and Jokic had 22 points and 10 rebounds for Denver in its third consecutive loss.

CLIPPERS 113, LAKERS 105

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Danilo Gallinari scored 23 points, Lou Williams added 21 and the Los Angeles Clippers dealt another blow to the Los Angeles Lakers' fading playoff hopes.

Gallinari led six Clippers scoring in double figures while they comfortably maintained a lead over their Staples Center coterminants down the stretch. The Clippers (37-29) took sole possession of seventh place in the Western Conference standings with their sixth win in eight games.

LeBron James scored 27

points and Rajon Rondo had his 32nd career triple-double, but the Lakers took their ninth loss in 12 games since they beat the Clippers on Jan. 31.

Rondo had a season-high 24 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for the Lakers (30-34), who were coming off an embarrassing loss to Phoenix and played without ailing forward Brandon Ingram. Kyle Kuzma scored 13 points before limping off the floor with an apparent ankle injury with 6:04 left.

KINGS 115, KNICKS 108

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Buddy Hield scored 28 points and Harrison Barnes had 22 points and 10 rebounds in his best game with Sacramento as the

Associated Press
Kings beat the woeful New York Knicks.

Harry Giles added 17 points for the Kings before getting ejected. Hield had seven assists and six rebounds to help them end a three-game losing streak. Sacramento remained three games behind San Antonio for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Barnes' scoring output was his highest in eight games since being acquired from Dallas at the trade deadline.

Alonzo Trier scored 29 points in 30 minutes off the bench for New York (13-51), which has the worst record in the NBA and was mathematically eliminated from post-season contention with 18

games remaining. Dennis Smith Jr. added 18 points but the Knicks have lost 22 of 25.

PELICANS 115, JAZZ 112

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Jrue Holiday and Julius Randle each scored 30 points to rally New Orleans past Utah.

Anthony Davis had 15 points and 11 rebounds in three quarters for the Pelicans. Davis sat out all but the last second of the fourth, yet New Orleans still won its third straight game. Jae Crowder and Kyle Korver scored 20 points apiece off the bench to lead the Jazz. Rudy Gobert added 19 points and 19 rebounds, and Donovan Mitchell had 19 points and nine assists.

Utah took a 112-111 lead on Mitchell's layup with 43.9 seconds left. Elfrid Payton answered with a layup on the other end and Randle hit two free throws with 0.9 seconds remaining.

Davis, often benched in the fourth quarter since his trade request, entered to guard the inbounder on the final sequence. He helped disrupt Utah's last play, closing out the comeback win for New Orleans. After trailing most of the way, the Pelicans finally erased Utah's lead late in the fourth as Randle sparked a 22-2 run.

NETS 127, MAVERICKS 88

NEW YORK (AP) — DeMarre Carroll scored 22 points, Rodions Kurucs had 19 and Brooklyn snapped a three-game losing streak with an easy win over Dallas.

Caris LeVert added 18 points and Spencer Dinwiddie finished with 16 on a night when the Nets shook up their starting lineup but were fueled by their reserves. The 39-point margin was their most lopsided victory at home — and matched their biggest win overall — since moving to Brooklyn in 2012.

The Nets were routed by teams below them in the standings in their last three games but led nearly the entire way, with the lead ballooning to 44 points. Brooklyn moved back into a tie for sixth place in the Eastern Conference. □

Woods pulls out of Bay Hill with neck strain

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods has withdrawn from the Arnold Palmer Invitational with what he describes as a neck strain. Woods announced his decision Monday on Twitter. He says his lower back is fine and he has no concerns over the long run. Woods says he's had the neck strain for a few weeks and it hasn't improved with treatment to the point he feels he can play. This is the first time the 43-year-old Woods has withdrawn from a tournament in two years, shortly before his fourth back surgery to fuse his lower spine. Woods is an eight-time winner at Bay Hill. He says he hopes to be ready the following week for The Players Champion-



In this Feb. 24, 2019, file photo, Tiger Woods hits the ball on the first hole during the WGC-Mexico Championship at the Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City.

Associated Press

ship. Woods has played three times this year, with his best finish a tie for 10th in Mexico City. □

AP sources: Buffalo Bills agree to re-sign Jordan Phillips

By **JOHN WAWROW**
AP Sports Writer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Two people with direct knowledge of the deal tell The Associated Press that defensive tackle Jordan Phillips has agreed to re-sign with the Buffalo Bills. The people spoke to The AP on Monday on the condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been announced. Phillips posted a note on his Twitter account earlier in the evening in which he wrote:

"Done deal. LETS **GO BILLS MAFIA!**" He was a regular backup in appearing in 12 games with the Bills, who claimed him off waivers after being cut by Miami. Phillips was cut by the Dolphins after he had an angry outburst along the sideline during a lopsided loss to New England. Phillips developed a reputation as being an inconsistent underachiever in Miami after being selected in the second round of the 2015 draft. □

Norwegian musher takes lead in the Iditarod

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Norwegian musher Joar Ulsom is at the top of the leader board in the world's most famous sled dog race. Ulsom, the defending champion, was the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race musher to reach Nikolai, Alaska on Tuesday. He pulled into the checkpoint 263 miles (423 kilometers) into the nearly 1,000

mile (1,600 kilometer) race with 13 dogs. He was followed into the Alaska Native community about 90 minutes later by Alaska mushers Pete Kaiser and Jessie Royer. Both still have 14 dogs on their teams. Ulsom, Kaiser and French man Nicolas Petit have traded the lead throughout the early part of the race. Petit was in fourth place Tuesday. □



Joey Logano celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Sunday, March 3, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Roger Penske

Continued from Page 18

Penske will spend this week chairing the Penske Corp., his privately held transportation services company ahead of the IndyCar season opener on the streets of St. Petersburg, Florida. He will have three Chevrolets in the race, all piloted by championship-contending drivers.

The Penske wave of success is a continuation from last year when the organization celebrated its 500th overall win, Logano won the Cup championship, McLaughlin won the Supercars title and Will Power was Penske's 17th Indianapolis 500 winner.

At a time when the value of motorsports is constantly questioned — the overall spend by teams, resources for technology and development, sponsorship budgets and marketing plans — Penske consistently gets the most bang for the buck. "The Captain" is one of the most important figures in North American racing and his unwavering support and commitment is a steadying force during tumultuous times.

Penske has been a consistent public supporter of NASCAR's new rules package, which made its full debut Sunday at Las Vegas. NASCAR believes the new

rules will make for better racing, though teams still don't know how it will play out over an entire season. Fans have been essentially promised it will, at minimum, make for a more entertaining show.

The new rules have been received as both polarizing and promising, but Penske has been one of the most important backers of NASCAR's direction.

"We all have a tendency to do what's best for us, and at the end of the day we've got to think about what's best for the company," Penske said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "And my dad told me a long time ago if you're always thinking about what's best for you, your company is never going to get there. Your decisions are based on what's best for the company, best for the industry, best for NASCAR."

His opinion has been validated with two wins in the two races with the new competition package. The victories for Logano and Keselowski gave Penske the early edge in the Ford camp and the first celebrations with the Mustang. It also gave Penske another opportunity to prove he believes in letting his drivers race each other on the very edge when the check-

ered flag is on the line.

Logano and Keselowski raced more like rivals than teammates over the final lap at Las Vegas and that intense finish helped NASCAR tout Sunday as a success. But they would not have raced each other so hard if the boss doesn't approve, and Penske's philosophy was for the betterment of the overall product.

"I really don't have any favorites," he said. "Only one is going to win coming out of the stable. We've really told them to take care of each other, at the end of 10 laps the best man wins." Penske plans to be in St. Pete this weekend, thoroughly invested in Power, Simon Pagenaud, Josef Newgarden and the IndyCar effort. Televisions placed throughout his track office will be tuned to the NASCAR events in Phoenix, and his executive team will have him briefed on every important development.

Racing at nearly every level is weathering a reset and searching for solid footing in a crowded sports and entertainment space. The rebuilding period has been trying for the entire motorsports industry, but so long as Penske is still firmly on board, the fight still has significant value. □

Hershiser says baseball not in need of change

By The Associated Press
Orel Hershiser isn't worried about the way analytics are affecting pitching in baseball, saying players and managers will adapt and that the essentials of the game haven't changed.
The former Los Angeles Dodger great told PodcastOne Sports Now co-hosts Tim Dahlberg and Jim Litke that managers will figure out how to play situational baseball with their pitching staffs soon enough and that wholesale changes aren't needed in the way the game is played.
"I don't think the essence of the game has changed," Hershiser said. "But definitely the strategy of the game has changed."

Hershiser holds the major league record for consecutive scoreless innings of 59 innings, set in 1988, the last year the Dodgers won the World Series.

Hershiser was the MVP of that series, and the National League Cy Young winner that year.

Hershiser spoke on the podcast from Arizona, where he is serving as a spring training instructor. He is also a Dodger broadcaster.

Dahlberg and Litke discuss baseball in the spring, as well as the recent NFL combine and the woes of LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers.

They also talk about the fine points of espresso, and why March is caffeine awareness month. □

MLB reaches deal with Mexican League on signing players

NEW YORK (AP) — Mexican League baseball players will be eligible to sign with major league teams as free agents after they are 25 years old and have six or more years of professional league experience.

Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Players Association and the Liga Mexicana de Beisbol announced a two-year transfer agreement Tuesday.

Mexican teams may release players to sign with MLB clubs before they have foreign professional status under the deal.

For a player under contract to a Mexican League club who is leaving to sign with a major league team, the major league club will owe the former team 15 percent of the guaranteed value of a major league contract or 35 percent of the signing bonus of a minor league contract. MLB previously reached agreements with leagues in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Cuba. □



This combo of images shows, from left, amateur basketball league director Merl Code, former Adidas executive James Gatto, and business manager Christian Dawkins.

Associated Press

Three get prison in college basketball recruiting scandal

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A former Adidas executive and two others who paid families to persuade top college basketball recruits to play for schools sponsored by the shoe brand were sentenced to prison Tuesday by a judge who said he wanted to send a "great big warning light to the basketball world."

U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan said he had to balance the need for a stern message with the realization that others who did similar crimes were not prosecuted in a widespread college basketball recruiting scandal that has tainted two dozen schools. Former Adidas executive James Gatto, business manager Christian Dawkins and Merl Code, a former Adidas consultant, were convicted in October of conspiracy to commit wire fraud for funneling illegal payments to families of recruits to Louisville, Kansas and North Carolina State. Gatto, 48, of Wilsonville, Oregon, got nine months in prison; Dawkins, 26, of Atlanta, and Code, 45, of Greer, South Carolina, got six months each. Code and Dawkins were each also ordered to pay \$28,261 in restitution to the University of Louisville.

The judge said each can remain free until a federal appeals court decides whether to uphold their convictions.

Prosecutors say coaches teamed with Gatto and

others to trade hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to influence star athletes' choice of schools, shoe sponsors, agents and even tailors.

NCAA President Mark Emmert has said an independent enforcement body to adjudicate major infractions cases could be in place by August.

Kaplan said leniency for the defendants, who faced as much as three years in prison under federal sentencing guidelines, could only go so far. "These defendants all knew what they were doing was wrong," he said. The judge added that he wanted to send "a great big warning light to the basketball world."

"I deeply regret my actions," Gatto said in a shaky voice. Dawkins referenced "social dysfunction" in college basketball and said his actions were "clouded" by a "system that takes advantage of kids."

"I realize now more than ever none of this was worth it," Dawkins said.

Code, a former Amateur Athletic Union coach, said he also regretted his actions but added: "Some things really got to be changed about college basketball."

Kaplan said all the harm could not be measured in dollars, citing testimony by the father of Brian Bowen Jr., once one of America's bright high school basketball stars who seemed destined for the NBA until it was revealed that his father was to be paid \$100,000 so his

son would go to Louisville.

The judge recalled that the father cried as he testified that he had wrecked his son's life. The younger Bowen now plays basketball in Australia.

Kaplan also cited the playing at trial of a recorded conversation between Code and Dawkins in which the men discussed giving Louisville basketball coaches "plausible deniability" about the scheme. "I'll never forget that," Kaplan said. "They were making sure Rick Pitino's tracks were being covered."

Pitino was fired by Louisville after arrests were made in 2017 in the corruption investigation. He has denied wrongdoing.

In a release, Deputy U.S. Attorney Robert Khuzami said the sentences "only begin to reflect the magnitude of the harm these defendants caused through a scheme that not only defrauded multiple public universities but upended the lives of young student-athletes and corrupted a game cherished by so many."

Kaplan recommended all three men serve their sentences at minimum security prisons.

Tony Bland, a former Southern California assistant coach; ex-Arizona assistant coach Emanuel "Book" Richardson; and former Oklahoma State assistant coach Lamont Evans are awaiting sentencing. Former Auburn assistant coach Chuck Person, who pleaded not guilty, is scheduled for trial in June. □





By Carlos M. Viana

Religious dietary recommendations, sometimes prohibitions, like folk sayings and remedies have an uncanny insight into the human condition. As a clinical nutritionist, I enjoy trying to unravel the basis for these laws. Likewise, I am interested in traditional methods of cooking foods. Why do spinach and potatoes or cloves and ham seem to go so naturally together? Spinach, a great natural source of iron, contains oxalic acid which can raise uric acid and aggravate a gout attack. However, cooked and eaten with potatoes, the alkalizing quality of potatoes reduces inflammation and prevents a uric acid reaction. Meanwhile, everyone knows that pork has to be cooked well because these animals may more easily become infected with bacteria and parasites. Cloves, used traditional pork recipes, have natural oils that kill bacteria and parasites. Interestingly, reflecting the dietary prohibitions of the Old Testament, clinically, we have found pork to be detrimental to all metabolic blood types.

Spring reminds me that every major world religion and many indigenous belief systems incorporate fasting. "Fasting" means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as a mechanism to purify oneself and become more receptive to their deity's message. The Christian Bible has thirty-three passages about fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes

Fasting, Religious Wisdom Based on a chapter in Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine

place in the spring, during Passover.

As a natural physician I am aware that beyond religious faith, fasting is an ancient healing strategy. Many traditional cultures, including Oriental, East Indian, and Native American, have long regarded short periods of abstaining from food as curative and revitalizing. Hippocrates prescribed fasting. Fasting was practiced by Plato, Socrates and Mahatma Gandhi. In modern Europe, clinics that support therapeutic fasting are quite common. In Sweden it's practically a national sport. Eating once a day, intermittent fasting is proven to boost brain health and lower your risk for brain diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. For one, it reduces obesity and can help protect against diabetes — both increase your risk for developing Alzheimer's. Proponents of fasting offer thousands of testimonials from recovered asthmatics, arthritics, insomniacs, ex-sufferers of migraines, skin, digestive disorders, and other ailments. They maintain that apart from serious conditions like tuberculosis, ulcers, diabetes, hypoglycemia, blood, liver, kidney and heart diseases- systematic voluntary abstention from eating is almost always a healthy first response to illness. One of my medical heroes whose influence prompted me to become a colon hydrotherapist, Dr. Bernard Jensen, has supervised over 50,000 fasts at his center in Escondido, CA.

There are two kinds of fasting. The "water fast" induces rapid internal purification but shocks the system. Dr. Rudolph Ballentine, MD., author of "Diet & Nutrition - A Holistic Approach," says that the average American lacks the proper reserve nutrients necessary for healthy water fast. Dr. Ballentine recommends a supervised, gradual "juice fast" using natural vegetable and fruit juices to provide essential vitamins to sustain metabolism, and minerals which neutralize and removed toxins that are released. Although abstaining from food is often not as difficult as you may imagine, it is useful to plan. Having medical supervision is the safest way to start your fast. Fasting is not recommended at times of high stress. During the first two days, when you may feel weak and out of sorts, it's

nice to be able to be with supportive loved ones, and to rest when you feel like it. Acupuncture works very well to support you through this "rough" period.

One should begin to reduce portion amounts and eat lighter foods several days before all solid food is eliminated. While fasting, be sure to drink enough water to internally wash the system. Enough is: 1 qt/ 90 lbs of body weight (1 lt./each 30kg). Colonic irrigation not only augments the cleansing process, it also helps to hydrate the body. At Viana Healing Center we routinely supervise patients through a fast where, besides water, only brown rice is eaten for two weeks. Eating no proteins or fats, your body will begin to quickly break down its own excess deposits. This not only helps with weight loss, but we've seen it drastically improve skin, allergies, colon and other problems. The duration of a fast depends on one's medical condition, body weight, lifestyle and other individual factors. In many of our supervised patients, we combine the brown rice fast with periods of taking light, natural foods, almost exclusively vegetables.

If you are one of the people on the list above, not healthy enough to completely fast, but would like to eliminate or reduce certain food for religious or health reasons, be sure to be checked by a professional. Consult with a clinical nutritionist to help you make the right food choices in the safest way. Sometimes, eliminating red meat, dairy and/or gluten containing products like wheat, can drastically improve your health. Adding dietary supplements might be recommended. Always read labels to make sure your vitamins are free from artificial or unwanted ingredients like sugar and starch fillers. Get the Point! As a student of ecclesiastical discipline I see that the religious obligation of fasting is rarely observed in its integrity nowadays. What a pity, fasting brings into harmony our mind, soul and body. Fasting and abstaining from excessive food results in the lightening of the capabilities of the mind and the soul. Come in so we can help you plan and safely supervise your spring (cleaning) fast. □

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Millennial Money: 3 things that change when you own a home

By COURTNEY JESPERSEN
Associated Press

You signed the papers, got the keys and opened the front door. Now, that quaint little place is all yours.

But more freedom comes with more responsibility. A lot changes once you're a homeowner. Here's how to prepare for a few of the adjustments — emotionally and financially.

1. YOU THINK ABOUT MONEY MORE OFTEN

Ideally, you start thinking about money long before you sign the papers for your home.

Say a mortgage on your dream house would be \$2,000 a month, but your current rent is \$1,500. You should live at the new expense level to test it out before you buy, says Mariane-la Collado, CEO and senior financial advisor at Tobias Financial Advisors in Florida. For example, you could try putting the \$500 difference into savings for several months to see if you can manage.

"You give yourself time to adjust to living within the new cost of housing," Collado says. "This way you start getting a feel for what the new budget is going to look like."

For an even more com-



This Wednesday, July 5, 2017, file photo, shows a "Sold" sign displayed in front of a house in Sacramento, Calif. A home of your own comes with new freedom and more responsibility.

Associated Press

plete picture of your new budget, go a step further. Collado recommends calling local companies before buying a house so you can gauge how much you should expect to pay for monthly bills like water and electricity.

Your money mindfulness will need to continue after you've settled into your house and placed a welcome mat on the porch.

A budget needs to be revisited regularly, especially since you can expect

home-related expenses to go up over time. It's crucial to have flexibility in your budget to cover an increase in utility expenses or a financial emergency.

2. YOU NEED THINGS YOU DIDN'T BEFORE

New homeowners will buy things they never needed before. That may include items such as a screwdriver set, claw hammer, pliers, smart thermostat and smart lighting, according to Jordan Ribelin, a Lowe's spokesperson.

These are relatively minor, but there are big expenses, too. In an apartment, you may not have needed to purchase a washer, dryer or refrigerator because they were supplied for you. And you probably didn't need a lawn mower.

Depending on what you already own, expect to buy appliances for your new place. Start setting aside money for these items while you're saving for a down payment and closing costs. And keep an eye out for

sales and deals.

But don't make major purchases until you move in, advises Rianka R. Dorsainvil, CFP, founder of Your Greatest Contribution, a fee-only financial planning firm. That's because you want your debt-to-income ratio to be as low as possible at closing.

"After you purchase the home and you've slept in it one night, do what you want," Dorsainvil says. "Buy the furniture. Finance it if you need to and (if) you can afford it."

3. YOU MANAGE TIME DIFFERENTLY

Once you've officially moved and sent out your change of address announcements, you'll quickly realize you're responsible for upkeep. That means you're on the hook when the water heater breaks or the air conditioner goes out. It's not just repairs, either. Lipford points out other expenses like yard work and pest control. And for maintenance, you have two options: handle things yourself or hire someone to do it. "You really have less free time if you're going to do items yourself," Lipford says. "Or if you're going to hire it done, then you have less available income." □

Stocks drift between small gains, losses in midday trading

By DAMIAN J. TROISE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks are moving sideways in midday trading on Wall Street Tuesday as losses for banks and big technology companies offset gains elsewhere in the market.

The stagnant movement came a day after the market failed to hold on to an early gain. Citigroup slumped 1.3 percent, while Micron Technology dropped 1.4 percent.

Several retailers were moving higher, including Target and Kohl's, which reported results that were better than analysts were expecting.

Victoria's Secret maker L Brands jumped after an activist investors called on the company to split up, and

Papa John's International rose after reaching a settlement with founder John Schnatter that calls for him step down from the board once an independent director replaces him.

Investors were hoping that more details would emerge from media reports Monday that the U.S. and China were getting closer to resolving their trade dispute. The market has often jumped on hopes that progress was being made on the trade talks, only to fall back later as details didn't come through.

Meanwhile, China plans to take additional measures to help shore up its cooling economy. The nation's growth target for the year is now between 6 percent and 6.5 percent. That's

slightly below last year's 6.6 percent growth rate.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow

Jones Industrial Average was little changed as of

11:30 a.m. ET. The S&P 500 index and the Nasdaq composite were also little

changed. □

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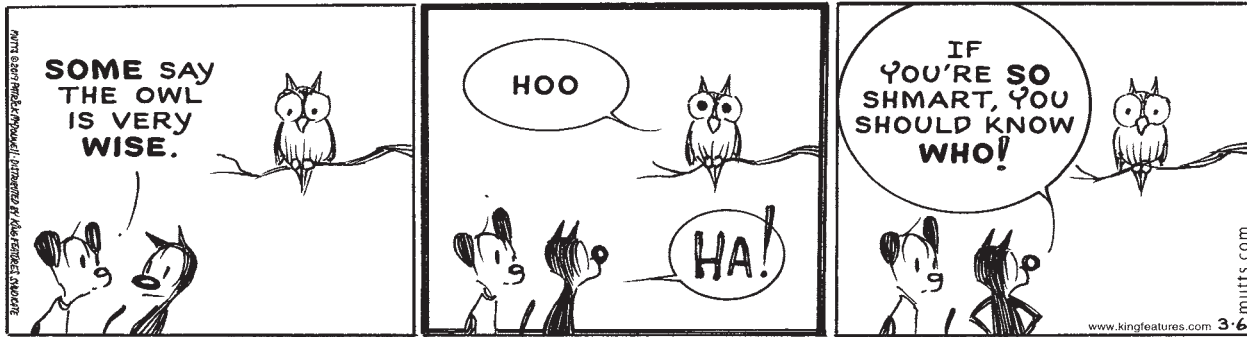
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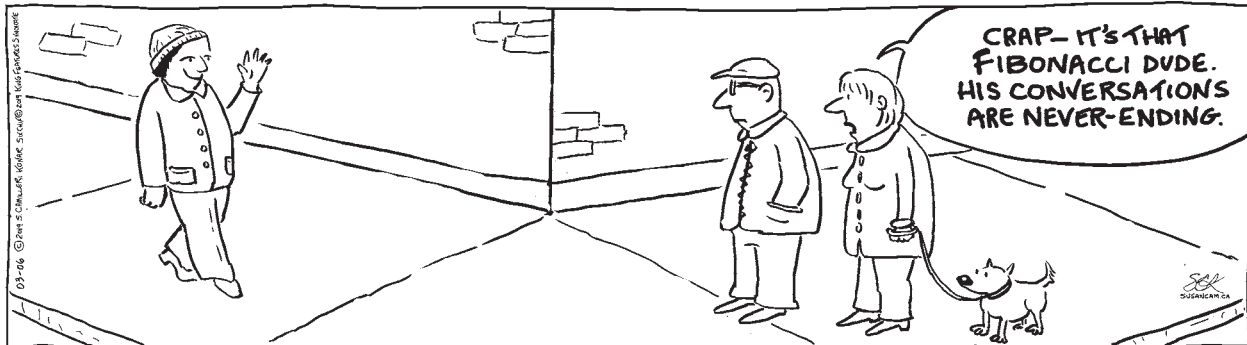
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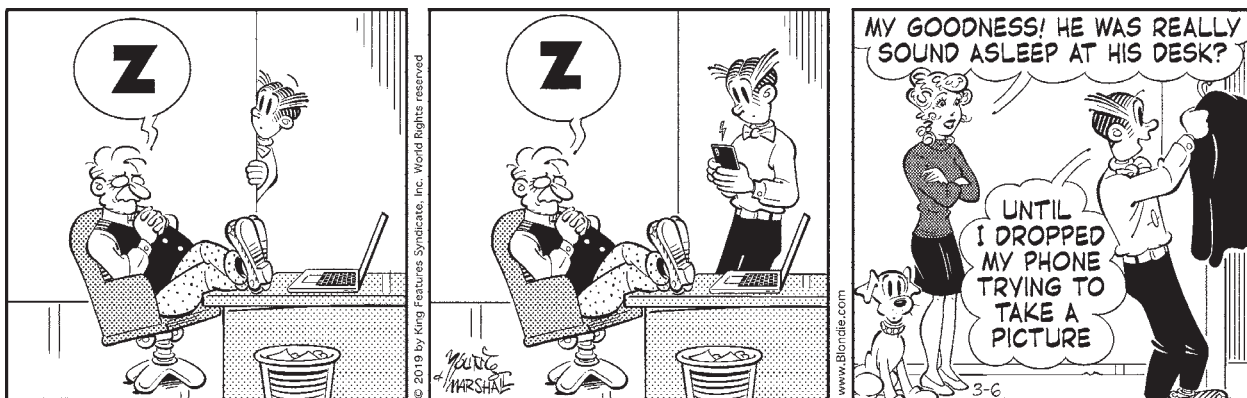
Mutts



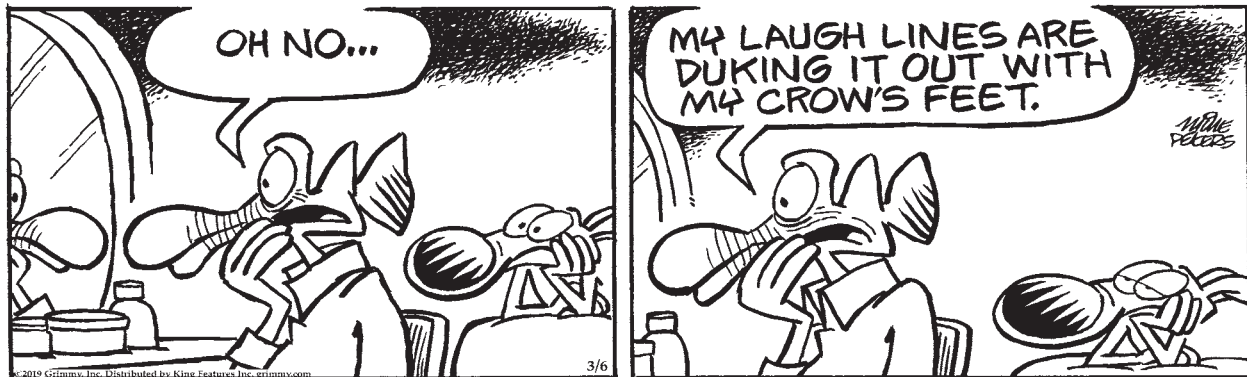
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		8	7	4				
	2				3			
4		9				8		
1		2				4		
3			5			7		
	4				7	2		
		1	8	7	5	6	3	
						5	7	9
							2	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/06

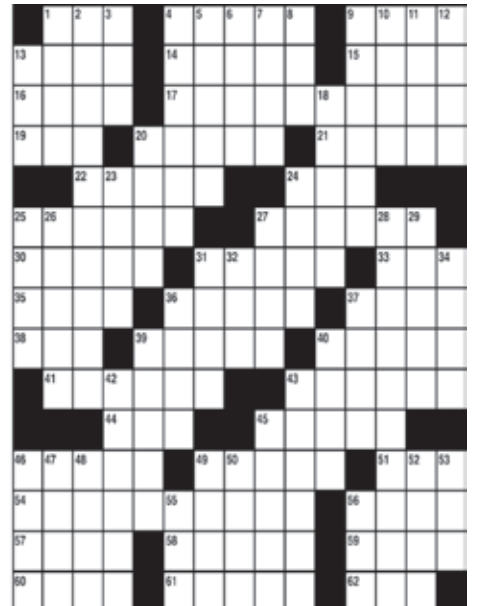
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	5	8	6	1	7	9	2	4
9	7	6	3	2	4	1	5	8
2	1	4	5	8	9	6	7	3
8	2	5	7	6	1	4	3	9
7	6	9	2	4	3	8	1	5
4	3	1	8	9	5	2	6	7
5	9	2	1	3	8	7	4	6
6	8	3	4	7	2	5	9	1
1	4	7	9	5	6	3	8	2

ACROSS

- 1 Ewe's mate
- 4 Sparkle
- 9 Canyon sound
- 13 Family member
- 14 Show with musical numbers
- 15 Part of the leg
- 16 Game broadcaster
- 17 Hyper
- 19 "Says ___?"; skeptic's reply
- 20 Met production
- 21 Shoestrings
- 22 New Delhi dollar
- 24 Flea collar wearer
- 25 Ill will; loathing
- 27 Least risky
- 30 Straighten
- 31 Eyeglasses
- 33 "Olympus ___ Fallen"; Morgan Freeman film
- 35 Floating sheet of ice
- 36 Skirt crease
- 37 Ditty
- 38 Cheap metal
- 39 Dairy product
- 40 Row of shrubs
- 41 Shun
- 43 At ___; haphazardly
- 44 Tear
- 45 "___ makes waste"
- 46 Play a guitar
- 49 Piece of chicken
- 51 Record speed letters
- 54 Flourishing
- 56 One not to be trusted
- 57 Expel; get rid of
- 58 Funeral song
- 59 Overnight stops
- 60 Golf shop purchase
- 61 Drive too fast
- 62 Humpty Dumpty, for one



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/6/19

5 Water barrier

- 6 "...and they lived happily ___ after."
- 7 Invisible emanation
- 8 ___ culpa; admission of guilt
- 9 Real ___; Century 21's business
- 10 Fashionable
- 11 Bee colony
- 12 Small bills
- 13 Parishioners' seat
- 18 Musical symbols
- 20 Not locked
- 23 Strong desire
- 24 Agreement
- 25 Ax handle
- 26 TV's "Kate & ___"
- 27 ___ ripper; sewer's tool
- 28 Trembling
- 29 Ballroom dance
- 31 Murdered
- 32 Tiny vegetable
- 34 ___ like; appear to be
- 36 Get ready, for short

DOWN

- 1 Too hasty
- 2 Distributes
- 3 Beard wearer
- 4 Felt about blindly

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

DIPS	APPLE	STEM
ROLL	BLUES	TOYA
AWAY	REGISTRARS	
BAY	TUBS	HADES
GROPE	JAI	
STREET	BEINGS	
LIONS	PLEAS	ELF
ABUT	GLEAN	STAR
PIN	BROOD	FLUTE
ADORED	ELAPSE	
PEW	LLAMA	
INDIA	SOAK	NBC
ROUNDA	ABOUT	DDAY
KNEE	FALSE	EGGS
SOLD	TREED	COST

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3/6/19

- 37 Portable shelter
- 39 Rain forest animal
- 40 Meaty concoction
- 42 Pie bottoms
- 43 Worn to tatters
- 45 Door hanger's metal piece
- 46 Catch sight of
- 47 Factual
- 48 Late Kennedy matriarch
- 49 Stumble
- 50 Bring on board
- 52 Hunger pain
- 53 Fem. title
- 55 Begley & Bradley
- 56 Recline

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Divi Vilage

Sunday Check in building F
1 BR WK # 8 & 9 Same room
rd floor with 21 and 25 weeks
remain
on the contract \$9000 Each

Divi Links Golf

Saturday Check in Eagle 15
1BR WK 8 & 9 with 27
weeks remain \$9000 each
Eagle Resorts & Casino
1 Br WK 7 Ground floor \$5500

Divi Village

Building C Elevator
2 BR WK 13 \$14K
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated
weeks remain
Divi Links Golf
Birdie 1
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$9 K each
2 sd floor with 25 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

Birdie 1
Studio WK 11 \$8 K
2 sd floor with 27 weeks remain
Divi Village
Building C
1 BR WK #14 \$7500
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

Aruba Divi Phoenix

New Tower
1 BR WK 8 Building 6
4th floor with 26 weeks remain
\$15K
1 BR WK# 4 Building 7
6th floor with 28 weeks remain
\$15K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

New Tower
1 BR WK 10 building 8
6th floor 28 weeks remain \$15K
2 BR Penthouse wk 11 & 12
building 9 the 7 th floor
33 weeks remain \$25 K each

Aruba Divi Phoenix

New Tower
Studio wk 9
building 6 ,5th floor
with 30 weeks remain \$10 K
1 BR wk 11
building 7 3rd floor
34 weeks remain \$15K

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$18 K Both
weeks
4th floor pool/ocean view
Renaissance suites
1 BR WK 9 \$9 K
4th floor harbor /ocean view

Barcelo Resort

all inclusive
studio wk 8 & 9 \$25 K both
1 BR wk 8 \$15K
2 BR WK 9 & 10 \$20 K each
Floating Weeks Platinum
1 BR , 2 BR wk 2/17

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Weeks
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
3 BR Ocean View \$27 K

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Editor

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Louedska Maduro
Shanella Pantophlet
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Unusual alliance to save blue whales stalled by Sri Lanka

By MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

When the feeding grounds of blue whales overlap with busy shipping lanes, business interests often supersede those of the endangered marine mammals. But in Sri Lanka, an unusual alliance has been forged: local conservationists and international shipping companies have aligned in a bid to move the heavily trafficked lane about 28 kilometers (17 miles) away to help avoid collisions between whales and freighters.

The only holdout is the government of Sri Lanka, which has so far declined to sign off on the proposal, jeopardizing the future there of the biggest animal ever known to have lived on the planet, scientists say.

The hundreds of blue whales in Sri Lankan waters — marine biologists estimate there are 600 to 1,500 — feed on tiny shrimp in the shipping lane, and are also believed to mate and give birth nearby.

Shipping executives say they would gladly relocate the traffic corridor, recognizing their ships would be safer in waters not already clogged with fishing vessels, whale-watching boats and the whales themselves, which can grow to more than 33 meters (100 feet), more than twice the length of a Tyrannosaurus Rex dinosaur.

Bryan Wood-Thomas, vice president of the World Shipping Council, said the group wrote to the Sri Lankan prime minister in 2017, affirming that all major international shipping organizations believed Sri Lanka should work with the United Nations to move its traffic lane.

"This is one of the few cases



In this Nov. 6, 2007, file photo, people walk past the dead body of a whale in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Associated Press

in the world where we can physically separate ships from where the whales are," Wood-Thomas said. "Yes, it adds a little distance, fuel and money to shipping costs, but the extra cost is really minor."

He said it was no small feat to get the majority of the world's shipping companies to agree to move the shipping lane in Sri Lanka. "There are other places in the world where doing this would incur significant fuel costs or add a lot of time to the journey that businesses will not be happy to absorb," he said.

For a shipping lane to be moved, the country whose waters are most affected must submit a formal proposal to the International Maritime Organization, the U.N. agency that regulates shipping.

Despite numerous meetings between scientists, the shipping industry and U.N. officials during the past six years, Sri Lankan officials have demurred from supporting the shipping lane shift.

Rear Adm. Rohana Perera of Sri Lanka's Marine Environment Protection Authority said the government is concerned about the economic impact of the proposed shipping lane move on its ports, fearing passing ships might not be as inclined to stop in Sri Lanka. He said a decision would "hopefully" be made in March.

The recent political turmoil in Sri Lanka has also complicated matters; a new government was only formed in late December after the president sacked the prime minister, prompting a constitutional crisis.

Perera acknowledged Sri Lanka had other priorities at the moment, but said they also recognized the importance of protecting blue whales.

"Conservation problems are usually so complex, but this one is very clear-cut," said Asha de Vos, executive director of Oceanswell, a Sri Lankan marine nonprofit. "This is a situation where Sri Lanka could really shine by taking the initiative."

In many parts of the world, there is no easy solution to the convergence of ships and cetaceans. For example, scientists have long been worried about the sperm whales that live in the Straits of Gibraltar, but have few solutions.

"It's an incredibly busy area for shipping, but unfortunately, there's not much scope for moving the shipping lane because the straits are so narrow," said Russell Leaper, the scientific lead for blue whales at the International Fund for Animal Welfare, a conservation group.

Once hunted to the brink of extinction, the blue whale population has slowly begun to rebound since being granted protection from commercial whaling in 1946.

Due to their size, the whales' only known predators are orcas and humans. Conservationists estimate there are between 5,000 and 15,000 blue whales globally and although their numbers are believed to be increasing, they are still classified as "endangered."

Scientists warn that blue whales in Sri Lanka are particularly vulnerable because they are the only population that doesn't migrate, making them espe-

cially susceptible to local threats such as ship strikes, Leaper said.

"It's a very unusual population because they're very isolated and they are in Sri Lanka all year around," he said.

"Removing that one threat of ship strikes would make a very large contribution to saving them."

Although statistics on how many whales are killed by ships are patchy, some studies estimate dozens of blue whales are fatally struck by ships in Sri Lankan waters every year.

Scientists say they believe that for every blue whale identified in a ship accident, up to 50 others go undetected, largely because once whales are struck and killed, they sink to the bottom of the ocean.

Michael Fishbach, executive director of the Great Whale Conservancy, said that protecting blue whales is crucial not just for the species, but for the planet. He explained that whales help stimulate the production of plankton, which in turn produces more oxygen to offset the impact of climate change.

"For the health of the oceans, we really need more whales," Fishbach said. □



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Smokey Robinson remembers Aretha Franklin at tribute concert

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For Smokey Robinson, the late Aretha Franklin was more than just the Queen of Soul. Robinson told a packed venue that Franklin was his longtime neighbor in Detroit, calling the acclaimed singer his “little sister” whom he still misses at the “Aretha! A Grammy Celebration for The Queen of Soul.” He along with some of music’s well-respected artists such as Alicia Keys, Celine Dion and Patti LaBelle took the stage to help bring Franklin’s favorite songs back to life during the Jan. 13 taped tribute concert in Los Angeles.

The tribute will air March 10 on CBS.

“She was the girl next door. In fact, she was the girl right around the corner who became a lifelong friend, who became a musical icon,” said Robinson of Franklin, who last year died at age 76 from pancreatic cancer at her home in Detroit. When they were younger, he said they played hide-and-seek and kick-the-can games outside.

“Before Aretha passed away, she was my longest living neighborhood friend,” he said.



This Jan. 13, 2019 file photo shows Smokey Robinson at the “Aretha! A Grammy Celebration For The Queen Of Soul” tribute in Los Angeles.

Robinson talked about meeting a 6-year-old Franklin for the first time after her family moved from Buffalo, New York, to Detroit. He said their first encounter came at Franklin’s home, which he called a “mansion.” “I went into this little room, peeked in and saw this little 6-year-old girl sitting there playing the piano and singing up a storm. ... ‘Amazing Grace,’” he said. “She was amazing. I said to myself, ‘If she wants

to, I know she’s going to be somebody really important in show business.’”

Franklin certainly left her imprint on music and the world. She had dozens of hits over the span of half a century and took home 18 Grammy Awards. In 1987, she became the first woman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The prolific singer and pianist sang at the dedication of her longtime friend the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s

memorial in 2011. She performed at the inaugurations of President Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter and the funeral for civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks. President George W. Bush awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, in 2005.

One of Franklin’s best-known performances was when she sang “My Country ‘tis of Thee” at President Barack Obama’s inaugura-

tion in 2009.

Music mogul Clive Davis told the crowd “there will never ever be another Aretha Franklin” at the tribute put on by the Recording Academy. Some of the singer’s family members including her grandson who spoke at her funeral were in attendance at the tribute, hosted by filmmaker and actor Tyler Perry.

Robinson called Franklin a “game-changing sensation” who had one of the “greatest voices” of all time.

“She was a gifted songwriter, a fantastic musician and a great political activist,” he said. “But for me, she was always my little sister who I loved so much. I still love her so much. But she’s gone home now to be with her father. I believe she has been reunited with her entire immediate family.”

Many others echoed Robinson’s sentiments.

A video montage of Franklin was shown at the show’s start as quotes paying homage to her were displayed on the screen from Obama, Barbra Streisand, Tony Bennett and Willie Nelson. The video also showed the singer in a joyful moment laughing alongside with King. □

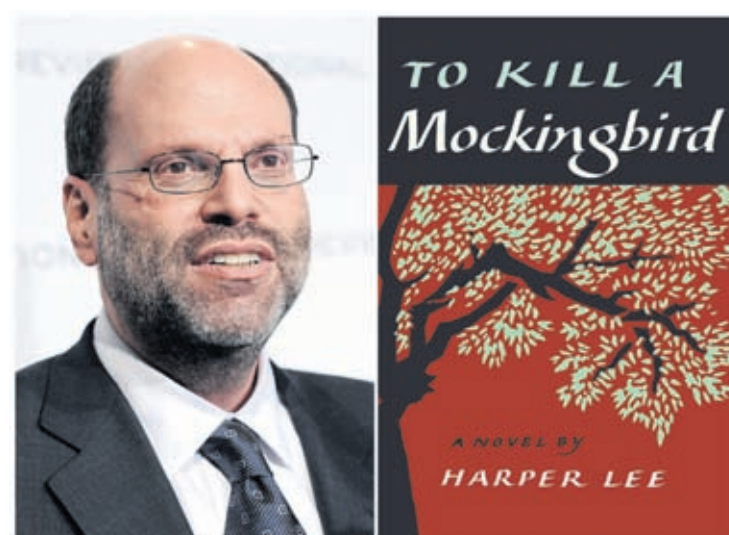
Why small US theaters have canceled ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Dozens of community and nonprofit theaters across the U.S. have been forced to abandon productions of “To Kill a Mockingbird” under legal threat by Broadway and Hollywood producer Scott Rudin. The combative move has prompted calls for a boycott of Rudin’s work.

Rudin is arguing that author Harper Lee signed over to him exclusive worldwide rights to the title of the novel and that Rudin’s current adaptation on Broadway — written by Aaron Sorkin — is the only version allowed to be performed.

That means different adaptations have had to be scuttled in such small ven-



This combination photo shows Hollywood and Broadway producer Scott Rudin at The National Board of Review Motion Pictures awards gala in New York on Jan. 11, 2011, left, and the cover of Harper Lee’s “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

ues as the Grand Theatre in Salt Lake City; Mugford Street Players in Marblehead, Massachusetts; and the Kavinoky Theatre in Buf-

falo, New York, as well as a planned United Kingdom and Ireland tour. They had licensed the rights for a different version, written by

Christopher Sergel.

Anger over the move has triggered an online revolt using the rallying cry #BoycottRudinPlays. Chris Peterson, founder of the On-Stage Blog, wants ticket buyers to steer clear of all current and upcoming Rudin productions on Broadway, including “Hilary and Clinton,” “Gary: A Sequel to Titus Andronicus,” “King Lear,” “The Ferryman” and “The Book of Mormon.”

“If a theatre was consciously stealing creative license, that would be one thing. This is something else entirely. This is wrong,” he writes. “Prohibiting others to perform this piece goes against everything the novel is about in the first place.” The all-volunteer Curtain Call Theatre in Braintree,

Massachusetts, said it received a letter threatening damages of up to \$150,000, a staggering amount for a venue where tickets for plays are \$20 and \$25 for musicals.

“Due to the substantial financial impact defending such an action would have on our small theatre group, we have no choice but to comply and, thus, cancel our upcoming production of ‘To Kill a Mockingbird.’ Not doing so would put our theatre at great risk,” the theater said in a statement. In Ohio, the Dayton Playhouse, an active community theater since 1959, had to abruptly cancel its “To Kill a Mockingbird.” The cast and crew have been hard at work on the production for weeks. □

'Captain Marvel' gets an average introduction

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
Associated Press

If there is one thing that's true of most of the movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, it's that they have life and spirit to spare. It's a kind of an intoxicating joy that dares even the most comic book-apatetic to get onboard and delight in the spectacle, and it usually comes down to the characters. You might not care about whatever Earth-threatening foe is at large this time, but you care about Captain America, Black Panther and Black Widow and enjoy spending a few hours with them. I spent over two hours with Captain Marvel/Carol Danvers and I still have no idea what her personality is. Sure, there's a lot more going on in "Captain Marvel," but it's a pretty egregious failing considering that the creative bigwigs at Marvel had 10 years and 20 films to work it out. It's hard to say whether that's a flaw in Brie Larson's performance or a failure of the script, but I came out of the film from writers/directors Anna



This image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Brie Larson in a scene from "Captain Marvel." Associated Press

Boden and Ryan Fleck not caring all that much about her beyond what her dazzling powers might mean for the next Avengers film, which is perhaps the lamest way of all to experience these movies. The story drops you in the middle of things and gives Carol Danvers a convenient case of amnesia as she tries to piece together her past by dreaming of Annette Bening while training to be a soldier with Jude Law on the planet of Kree. She is told at least 10 times

in the first 10 minutes of the film that she needs to control her emotions, mostly by Law. This is a charged thing to say to a woman, but also confusing because "emotional" is the last word I would use to describe the character as she's presented. She's more impulsive and bullheaded than anything else. Emotions and heart don't seem to have anything to do with her decisions. At times it even seems like she's channeling

the Terminator. But this is also a script that has Larson delivering eye-rolling lines like "enough of your mind games" with a straight face. She's a great actress, but that's a tall order for the best of them. The film is meant to be disorienting, especially at the beginning. She's confused and so the audience must be too, I guess? But things start to come together when she crash-lands on Earth in the middle of a Los

Angeles Blockbuster Video somewhere around 1995, which you know because there's a "Babe" poster and a cardboard display for "True Lies." The film-makers have fun with all their mid-'90s references from computers to musical cues (if you like angry '90s girl pop anthems you're in luck), but I wish someone would have been paying that much attention to the continuity of Larson's curls, which change even in the middle of scenes. In LA, she comes across a young Nick Fury, played by a digitally de-aged Samuel L. Jackson, whose infectious liveliness is a godsend. Together they try to both track down shapeshifting alien invaders called the Skrulls (led by Ben Mendelsohn) and also get answers about her past, which honestly sounds a lot more interesting than her present. But this is the origin story they went with and it does not include Bening teaching Larson how to fly a fighter plane. □

Reese Wynans hosts guitar summit on first solo album

By **PABLO GORONDI**
Associated Press

Reese Wynans & Friends, "Sweet Release" (J&R Adventures) With a career going back to the 1960s, keyboard player Reese Wynans is probably best known for his time recording and touring with Stevie Ray Vaughan. So it's not surprising that "Sweet Release," Wynans' first solo album, is heavy on the SRV connections, including appearances by the Double Trouble tandem of drummer Chris Layton and bass player Tommy Shannon on several takes of the Texan guitarist's tunes, like "Say What!" and "Riviera Paradise." In fact, the album is enriched by a long list of distinguished six-string masters, such as Warren Haynes, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Doyle Bramhall II, Josh Smith, Keb' Mo' and Jack Pearson. They all seem to make Wynans feel right at home and his piano and organ playing bursts with energy and taste. Produced by Joe Bonamassa, who's had Wynans on his own records for years, the album abounds with astonishing performances. Sam Moore, half of Sam & Dave, sings SRV classic "Crossfire" with a passion like he's the one ducking bullets, while the title track, a tune from Boz



This cover image released by J&R Adventures shows "Sweet Release," a solo album by Reese Wynans.

Associated Press

Scaggs' 1969 legendary Atlantic Records debut, has eight lead vocalists — including Haynes, Bonnie Bramlett, Vince Gill and Mo' — but veers far from ever sounding like an over-wrought charity song. Mo' and Wynans duet on "I've Got a Right to Be Blue," sounding like Robert Johnson contemporaries; Haynes assumes command on Les Dudek's "Take the Time" like he's running out of it; and Wynans' instrumental prowess elevates the funky "Soul Island." □

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SAT-SUN 2:10 | 7:00

MAARTEN DANNENBERG | TIEBBO GERRITSMAN
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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:45
FRI 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:45 | 11:00
SAT 2:00 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:45 | 11:00
SUN 2:00 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 8:45
SPANISH SAT-SUN 2:00

ROSA SALAZAR | CHRISTOPH WALTZ
ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 5:15 | 7:50
FRI 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
SAT 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50 | 10:25
SUN 2:40 | 5:15 | 7:50
MON-THU & SUN 9:10
FRI-SAT 9:10 | 11:45

DIWAYNE JOHNSON | FLORENCE PUGH
FIGHTING WITH MY FAMILY
MON-FRI 4:45 | 7:10
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:45 | 7:10

VIGGO MORTENSEN | MAHERSHALA ALI
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MON-SUN 8:50
MON-FRI 3:40 | 6:25
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WHAT MEN WANT
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 4:20 | 6:55 | 9:30

JESSICA ROTHE | ISRAEL BROUSSARD
HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 9:35
FRI-SAT 9:35 | 11:50

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Dressed up, ready for fun: New Orleans celebrates Mardi Gras

By REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The streets of New Orleans were filled Tuesday with excited kids hoping to catch beads from atop ladders, revelers in fancy costumes walking through the French Quarter and Mardi Gras Indians wearing finely beaded costumes.

Tuesday marks the final day of the Mardi Gras season, which began Jan. 6.

After rainy weather affected some parades Sunday, the weather Tuesday was cold but sunny. People — some of whom came out before dawn to get a good spot along the parade route — bundled up under multiple layers. Temperatures in the New Orleans area were in the 30s and 40s Tuesday morning.

Lorenzo Bridgewater of Slidell, Louisiana, got to the parade route at about 4:30 a.m. to get a good spot.

"I doubled up my jeans, doubled up my socks. I'm wearing a sweater underneath this and underneath that a thermal with a shirt over it. So I'm pretty layered up," he said.

The festivities kicked off early in the morning with the Northside Skull and Bone Gang walking through the Tremé neighborhood before the sun was up, wearing costumes that look like skeletons and waking people up to celebrate the day. Another crowd favorite is Pete Fountain's Half-Fast Walking Group. The clarinetist died in 2016



The Title Float rolls down Napoleon Avenue as the 1,600 men of Bacchus present their 32-foot Mardi Gras parade entitled "Starring Louisiana" on the Uptown route in New Orleans on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

but the walking group that he led for years still meets at Commander's Palace restaurant and walks along the parade route ahead of the parades. Lance Pierce, of Leonardtown, Maryland, got up early ahead of the rest of his friends to make sure he saw the group.

"I enjoyed watching Pete before he passed, coming down here and playing so that's my thing. Everyone else is kind of sleeping in, taking it easy, getting their costumes ready to go. But I like to come out here and watch the guys come by," he said.

Then the Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club parade along the city's famed

St. Charles Avenue followed by the Rex Parade. Zulu's practice of wearing black makeup during its parade has drawn attention and criticism after news that two Virginia politicians wore blackface heightened attention nationally to the issue. Zulu issued a statement in February saying their parade costumes bear no resemblance to those worn by "blackface" minstrel performers at the turn of the century and that their costumes are designed to honor garments worn by South African Zulu warriors. Zulu's custom-designed coconut throws are perennial favorites with fans who vie for the chance

to get one. Tuesday's Rex parade is also expected to feature a stop at "The Rex House," despite a fire that heavily damaged the historic mansion. The home along St. Charles Avenue has been an important stop along the Rex parade route since 1907, and the Rex king usually stops at the house during the parade. A fire on Feb. 20 caused massive damage to the three-story, 150-year-old mansion whose occupants over the years include four kings and a queen of Rex. This year's Carnival season also has featured numerous jabs at the NFL and its commissioner Roger Goodell, over the now-infamous

Associated Press

"no-call" that came during the Jan. 20 NFC Championship game between the Los Angeles Rams and the New Orleans Saints.

A Rams defensive back leveled a Saints receiver with a helmet-to-helmet hit at a crucial point in the final minutes of regulation time. The Rams went on to win the game and then lost to the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl.

NFL officials acknowledged after the game that flags should have been thrown. But judging by the number of Saints fans dressed up as blind referees during the Mardi Gras season — and again on Tuesday — fans here have neither forgiven nor forgotten.

One parade featured a walking group called the "Robbin Refs" who wore referee outfits and black masks. On the back of their uniforms? A photo of Goodell with a red clown nose. The Krewe d'Etat parade featured a float called "Willful Blindness" with a blind referee on the front holding a cane. Many parades have also featured yellow penalty flags as throws.

On Tuesday, some of city's TV personalities got into the fun. WVUE television personalities riffed off the "no-call" theme with one of them wearing a referee outfit, another dressed as a clown with an NFL shirt on and another dressed up like a robber and holding what appeared to be the Vince Lombardi trophy. □

Professional wrestler King Kong Bundy dies at age 61

Associated Press

GLASSBORO, N.J. (AP)

— King Kong Bundy, the 6-foot-4 (193-centimeter) professional wrestler best known for facing Hulk Hogan in WrestleMania 2, has died. He was 61.

Bundy died Monday, said promoter and longtime friend David Herro. He posted on Facebook: "Today we lost a Legend and a man I consider family." The cause of death and other details were not disclosed. Bundy, whose real name



This image provided by the WWE shows professional wrestler King Kong Bundy.

Associated Press

was Christopher Pallies, was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The 458-pound (208-kilogram) wrestler made his World Wrestling Federation debut in 1981. He faced Hogan in 1986 in a steel cage match at WrestleMania 2, which Hogan won. WWE said he was one of the "greatest ... big men to lace up a set of boots."

Hogan tweeted he was "overwhelmed" by Bundy's death. "R.I.P. big man until we meet again. HH."

Bundy had guest appearances on the sitcom "Married ... with Children," in which the family on the show shared the Bundy name. He left the WWF, which later became World Wrestling Entertainment, in the late 1980s but returned in 1994 as part of The Million Dollar Corporation, a group managed by "Million Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase.

Bundy had been planning to appear next month at WrestleCon in New York City. □

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